Located on the corner of Federal and Speer Boulevards, St. Dominic Church is one of the oldest churches in Denver, an English Revivalist building that opened in 1926. The parish itself was founded in 1879, and the congregation met at several Highland-area historical sites until the church itself was finally complete. Father Clint Honkomp, the current pastor at St. Dominic, is leading an initiative to restore the old church, provide outreach to the neighborhood and strengthen the parish’s community to honor the significance of the parish to this historic area of Denver.

Unfortunately, current economic times and the demographics of the church’s parishioners create a challenge for Father Honkomp. The congregation at this church includes 40% of parishioners who live at poverty or below, and 80% of families who live on less than $50,000/yr. Father Honkomp came to Regis for assistance in fundraising programs in order to strengthen the Parish’s coffers.

In response, Regis faculty and students assisted St. Dominic Church with the development of a "fair trade" parish store, which opened on October 4, 2011. The store sells common goods, those generally purchased at least once a month, at a significant savings. These staple products (soaps, beans, rice, toilet paper) are sold in reusable containers that parishioners can come and “fill up” after the Sunday masses.

The mission of the store is to provide healthful products at a price parishioners can better afford, and in quantities that suit their purchasing habits and environment. In addition to offering better quality food/household products, the store fosters environmental awareness by eliminating packaging waste and promoting organic products. The store focuses on the development of distribution relationships with farmers and manufacturers that provide a fair wage to their employees. In the spirit of community development and outreach, a job skills training center for the parishioners, and a "self-advocacy" educational program to assist these underprivileged families with capacity-building skills, are now in the planning process. The primary goal for the store is one of capacity building, preserving the dignity of and providing assistance to those who need it so that these members can better contribute to the community.

This store is truly a reflection of the commitment and passion of Regis students. Students surveyed the congregation to better understand the congregant’s purchasing habits and to ascertain what products are most needed by parishioners. Regis College senior, Nicole Haberkorn, assisted in the development of the feasibility analysis and business plan during her internship with St. Dominic. As part of her work-study position at Regis College, junior Lindsey Bonadonna participated in locating suppliers and researching other opportunities for the parish store. Regis student participation and the development of many more service learning opportunities will grow as the St. Dominic Fair Trade Store continues to take root, and eventually flourishes, in the community.