

the parish news

1 AIEA

St. Elizabeth Parish

The parish's **EDGE Youth Ministry**, for grades 6-8, held its retreat on Feb. 22 at the St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi. A total of 28 youth came to recognize that the light of Jesus Christ is in each one of them and how they must unite whatever they keep in the dark (pain, suffering, shame, fear, insecurities, etc.) with our Lord to let that light shine! Our pastor graced them with the sacrament of Reconciliation, the noon choir from our parish blessed our time during Adoration with beautiful live worship music, and our core team of adult leaders did an amazing job leading each session with courage and love. Everyone had a blast and created new friendships that we hope and pray will be strengthened along their faith journeys! Our retreat theme was "Into the Dark" and based on the Scripture from John 8:12, "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" Special thanks to **Sister Ivy** from St. Anthony, **Father Arnold**, **Peter Uiagalelei** and **Lionel Barona**, **Uncle Micah** and our **EDGE parents** for being extremely supportive of EDGE and praying for us during this awesome retreat! (Reported by *Ashley Duenas*)



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2 EWA

Immaculate Conception Parish

2 Corinthians 9:7 states: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." With our church dwelling in need of several urgent maintenance needs (the priority being exterior painting), and with the blessing of our "humble servant" pastor **Father Nick Brown**, it was decided by the **Council of Ministries**, **Parish Council** and **Council 6734 of the Knights of Columbus**, that a **Fish Fry** would be held each Friday during Lent to help offset the cost of the much needed painting. The Fish Fry began Feb. 28 and will end on Good Friday, April 10. Food is being provided by a parish family, owners of **Joe's Grill** located in the airport area. Some of the "ono" food we have enjoyed thus far are fried fish, furikaki mahi mahi, and grilled ono. Tickets are being coordinated and sold by the Knights of Columbus, Council 6734. Pick-up is in our parish hall each Friday, 5-7 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome! (Reported by *Normand HJ Robert*)



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3 HAWAII

Sacred Heart Parish

Mahalo, **Father Elias Escanilla**. Your leadership in four years has seen great maintenance, improvements and repairs at our parish, from fixing the rectory to changing the roof on St. Damien Hall and more ongoing projects. You have brought many beautiful activities to our parish, many we have not done before. Your tireless works are greatly appreciated. Salamat po Father Eli. ... Congratulations **Loretta Wickenden** and much mahalo for sharing your time and talent. Welcome into the ministries of altar servers, extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, lector, president of Communion service when a priest is not present, and sacristan. You and Jim moving to Kohala is truly a blessing to us. ... The Valentine's Day teppanyaki dinner was awesome. Mahalo kitchen volunteers, **Bobbi Aka-**

na, **Ben Cabang Jr.**, **Rhonda Ching**, **Debbie Davis**, **Laurie Gomera**, **Patty Kaluaui**, **Lehua Kim** and **Claude Pasalo**. The beautiful decorations were done by two awesome ladies, **Evie Adams** and **Theresa Meikle**.

The people who chose to dine in had an awesome time, fellowship and listening to oldies-but-goodies music. We even had a backdrop where you could take pictures with your loved ones. Love is in the air. Pictured are **Carlton and Danita** taking their picture. ... Lent has begun. Mahalo to our decoration crew, **Evie Adams**, **Debbie Davis**, **Lehua Kim**, **Rita Maria** and **Jim and Loretta Wickenden**. They went to Kohala beaches and by-ways to find natural resources, dried branches, logs, rocks and pebbles to decorate and set the church scene for our Lenten journey. Without the awesome numbers of volunteers who keep the wheel spinning we could not accomplish all that we do. (Reported by *Lee Rivera*)

4 WAIANA'E

Sacred Heart Parish

On Feb. 29, our parish held a first ever **Day of Reflection**. The day allowed parishioners to retreat from their usual routines of the day and to spiritually refresh themselves. It was our hope that the day brought a positive transformation in each of them and renewed themselves and their relationship with God and others. Together we gathered to build community and the day gave the parishioners opportunities for study and reflection. The Day of Reflection, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., included two guest speakers, **Maile Domingo** speaking on **Theology of the Body** in the Eucharist and **Peter Cruz** speaking on **The Eucharist: Heart of the Church**; a video presentation **teaching Mass** with **Bishop Larry Silva**; and ministry/organizations breakout sessions to reflect and share. The day provided a wonderful opportunity to begin our Lenten practice of prayer. (Reported



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those of Coptic, Armenian, Syriac and Orthodox traditions. The Knights of Columbus, through its Christian Refugee Relief fund, has distributed close to \$20 million to help needy families in the Middle East. Pictured with the icon, from left, are **Knights Robert Pagliai**, **Ferdinan Damo**, **Felix Navares**, **Reggie Sojot** and **Matthew David**. (Reported by *John Kampfer*)

6 KEKAHA

St. Theresa Parish

First Fridays and **First Saturdays** bring together those in our parish who want to spend more time in prayer with both Jesus and his mother Mary. Pictured are our First Saturday attendees March 7 at our parish mission church, **Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church** in Waimea. (Reported by *Chantal A. Duarte*)

7 EWA BEACH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

"The Journey — My Encounter with Jesus" from **Paulist Evangelization Ministries** is a retreat-type of adult faith formation currently running here on Monday nights, 7-8:30 p.m. We started on Feb. 24 and will end on March 30. Participants "encounter" the Lord Jesus through Scriptures, silent reflection, a short video clip that highlights the Scripture passage, small group sharing, and shared prayer. **Father Ed Barut**, pastor, and **Father Jong Atinaja**, parochial vicar, alternate in facilitating the topic for the week. Pictured is Father Ed with participants on March 9. Here are reflections from some participants: **Malia** says "I enjoy these faith sessions since it brings us together as a community to deepen our faith in God. I would like to see more programs like Bible study and other faith-based classes to encourage others to strengthen our faith." **Juanita** writes, "I look forward to the next meeting because although I am just like a furniture in the church, I have not met people with so much encounter with Jesus." An anonymous attendee wrote, "These sessions are just a few of the many ways our parish guides and strengthens our Catholic Christian faith. The sessions also inspire us to use our gifts and contribute actively to the life of our parish. Through the example of our Blessed Mother, we are encouraged to bring to others the good news of Jesus' mercy and love. It is an effective Lenten way of helping us prepare for the glorious celebration of Easter." Another participant wrote that she is enjoying the sessions immensely. She has made new friends and was able to connect with them on a spiritual level. "The Journey" is an offshoot of three weeks of Basic Bible Studies also conducted by Father Ed and Father Jong in January following the celebration of "The Word of God" Sunday. (Reported by *Julia Torres*)

8 MAKAWAO

St. Joseph Parish

The **Rite of Election** for parish catechumens **Bruce Anderson** and **Blossom Derego-Fabregas**, pictured wearing lei, was held at St. Theresa Church, Kihei, on March 1. (Reported by *Arsie Anderson*)

9 MAKAKILO

St. Jude Parish

Catechumens and their families were very excited to attend the **Rite of Election** at St. Theresa Co-Cathedral

by *Deacon Morton Zabala*)

5 WAHIAWA

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

Our Lady of Sorrows **Council 6302**, **Knights of Columbus**, hosted the icon of **Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians** on March 26, the day after Ash Wednesday. The icon is the latest in a series of icons commissioned by the Knights of Columbus since 1979 for its **Marian Prayer Program**. The icon was available for prayer throughout the day, ending with a prayer service in the evening. The Knights and the faithful who took part gave spiritual aid to those who suffer today for their faith. The icon, created by **Fabrizio Diomedi**, honors martyrs over the centuries, but calls attention to recent suffering in the Middle East. It depicts the Blessed Mother with the Child Jesus over her heart, spreading her protective mantle around a representation of recent martyrs of Roman and Eastern Catholicism, including

on March 1. For many of them, being with other catechumens from across Oahu was a very happy and confirming time. They inscribed their names in the Book of the Elect as a pledge of fidelity. The elect are **Motohide and Connor Koyano, Lorrie Ferrer, Timothy Noa, Brielle Calderon, Azariah and Isaiah Nagaishi, Evangiline and Pisa Nimoai, Amber Rose, Chasza-leilani and Nathalia Sanchez-Gray, Breanna Gerken, Mele Maumau and Alexander Paiva Jr.** (Reported by Keahi Teson)

10 WAIKANE

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

We congratulate our parish catechumens, **Alexa Morales, Andrea Akui, Aulani Akui and Susan Fujimoto** who took part in the Rite of Election at St. Theresa Co-Cathedral March 1 at 1 p.m. Present also from our parish were **Winnie Verdadero** (Holy Communion and Confirmation), **Melody Rapusas and Nadine Rapusas** (Confirmation) who will be completing their sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Mahalo to **Father Paulo** (spiritual director), **Steve Ziadie** (RCIA coordinator) and **Hannah Welch-Ornellas** (witness). Joyfully standing beside the catechumens with their right hand on the catechumens' right shoulders were the sponsors (proxies) **Lucy Salas (Alexa Morales), Lyn Asuncion (Andrea Akui), Serenity Lau (Aulani Akui) and Lilia Galicinao (Susan Fujimoto)**. ... We welcome two new proclaimers of the Word of God ministry. On Feb. 23, **Garrison Kamaka and Sarrah Seiber** were both commissioned at the 10 a.m. Mass. Congratulations and God bless them both as they join the other lectors in proclaiming the Word of God! (Reported by Lucy Salas)

11 KAHUKU

St. Roch Parish

Once a month, our parish, along with other denominations in the area, prepare a **meal for the homeless**. One church prepares the food, our church packages it and another delivers. It is a joint venture. It is very appreciated by those who struggle each day for a nourishing meal. Now in the season of Lent, we have Stations of the Cross every Friday night at 7 p.m., preceded by confession at 6:30. Each week a different church ministry is chosen to lead the prayers. Last Sunday the **Daughters of St. Paul** from the **Pauline Books and Media Center** came to share their extraordinary book selection along with Lenten items with our parishioners in our hall, after Mass, during the morning breakfast. We would like to thank them for the time and effort they put in to come all the way to the country to make these books available. ... Coming soon is the Mass at the co-cathedral celebrating **500 years of Christianity in the Philippines**. Members of the **St. Roch Filipino Catholic Club** will be attending. (Reported by Sharin Au)

12 KIHEI

St. Theresa Parish

The Maui/Lanai Vicariate **Rite of Election** was held Feb. 29, the first Sunday of Lent, in our church at a 1 p.m. Liturgy of the Word. The vicariate has 31 catechumens this year. During Lent the catechumens become the Elect. They are **Chan-teu Cadavona, Kieu Nguyen, Ann Yarofalfil, Layden Hasiugiulpiy, Lorenzo Hasiugiulpiy, Isa-Lei Orta, Samuel Hung, Bryson Hasegawa, Rheyden Lagazo, Dustine Metzler, David Rickard, Noah Becker, Cruz Kanemura, Kanaloa Keau, Dionne Ruuidas, Sofia Carbajal, Luka Blackwelder, Oriana Ong, Alana Ong, Laneah Vares, Caitlyn Shim, Cruz Allosada, Josiah Sevilla, Jave Somera, Bruce Anderson, Blossom Fabregas, Benjamin Matthews, Le-**



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Ian Pong, Ashley Sanchez, Kailanie Sanchez and Marcom Pascua. While preparing for sacraments, these Elect attended Mass regularly, participated in faith formation classes and become involved in the activities of their parishes. During the service they listened to the **Bishop Larry Silva's** homily live-streamed from Oahu to allow each one to be inspired by his words. Then one-by-one, they entered their names in the Books of the Elect. Family, friends and sponsors congratulated the Elect and accompanied them to the parish hall for a reception. There they enjoyed lunch and a cake decorated for the occasion. To commemorate the day, they received gift bags with religious articles, candy and literature to reaffirm to each that God has chosen them to be disciples of Jesus. (Reported by Anita Carrington; photo by Leroy Carrington)

13 HAIKU

St. Rita Parish

On the first Sunday of Lent, **Kailea McKeague**, left, made an announcement inviting parishioners to think

about the children and their families all over the world who need help. And with our help and thoughtful Lenten donations we are helping people around the world with nutrition, education, health issues, disaster relief, schools for children and creating a better future. If we all work together we CAN make a difference for those who have nothing. Pictured are religious education students **Kailea and Anna McKeague** holding **2020 Catholic Relief Rice Bowls** which they handed out after Mass. (Reported by Esther Yap)

KULIOUOU

Holy Trinity Parish

Almost 200 parishioners celebrated the parish's third annual **Mardi Gras** gala. We began with Mass, followed by prayers, readings from Scripture and the burning of the palms that had been distributed last year on Palm Sunday. Then the carnival began. Parishioners marched into the gym that had been transformed into Kuliouou New Orleans, to the jazz music of **Pierre Grill and his accompanists**. Tables glistened with cover-

ings in gold, purple and green. Food was delicious and in abundance. It was great seeing children wearing costumes and enjoying this parish festival. A few seniors also enjoyed competing in the costume contest. (From the parish bulletin)

HONOLULU

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

The parish is inviting its parishioners to participate in **Caritas Day**, a day of kokua March 28 with 15 projects that help vulnerable people. The projects include **Animeals**, which collects food for pets of homeless persons; **Beautiful Babes**, a baby shower for residents of the home for pregnant women; **Blessing Bags**, containers of essentials for at risk youth and young adults; **Boo Boo Bunnies**, a dual-purpose bunny that brings comfort (and holds ice for boo boos) for children recovering from abuse, trauma and grief; and 11 other creative activities. Participants will be working with social service agencies that serve the hungry, the ill, the homeless and children in need,

EDITOR'S CHOICE

including **Family Promise, Hawaii Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and Hale Kipa**. Most to the projects take place at the parish. Visit the parish website for more details, www.ss-peterpaulhawaii.org. (From the parish bulletin)

WAIALUA

St. Michael Parish

Mahi-mahi will be the main dish at the parish **Fish Fry**, March 27 in Damien Hall after the 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross. Our parish **Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring the event. Tickets are \$10 and are available after Masses or by contacting a Knight. Also on the menu will be potato/mac salad, rice, pineapple chunks and corn. (From the parish bulletin)

14 KALIHI

St. Anthony Parish

Have you been to Mexico City and visited the impressive complex and one of Mexico's holiest places? This is where the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to a humble Indian named Juan Diego in 1531. On Feb. 13, 16 parishioners from St. Anthony joined the Hawaii-Guadalupe pilgrimage group led by La Salette pastor **Father Arnel Soriano** and 15 pilgrims from other parishes for this once in a lifetime experience of faith, hope and love at the shrine of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Despite the scare of the coronavirus that had just started in China, the group left with faith in their hearts that our Lord and our Lady would be with them to venerate the cloak (tilma) containing the sacred image of the Virgin in the new Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The tilma is 488 years old and still intact. The image appeared on the cloak of **Juan Diego** when he went to show the bishop that Our Virgin Mary told him to gather roses at Tepeyac Hill, even though it was winter, because the bishop wanted proof that he really talked to Our Lady. That's when the bishop believed him. The new basilica, completed in 1974, holds 10,000 people. The image is way up at the back of the altar but you can come closer and take pictures from a moving walkway below. The group had Mass at the basilica on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. We also visited the old basilica on Tepeyac Hill where a church that Our Lady wanted is located. Last Dec. 12, more than nine million attended the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. For the remaining four days, our group visited other churches including Our Lady of Ocotlan, where an apparition to another Juan Diego in 1541 was miraculously burned into the trunk of an oak tree. The group took home lots of bottles of the healing water. Thanks to Mama Mary of Guadalupe. (Reported by Fe Rodillas)

KAILUA

St. John Vianney Parish

Our parish continues its series on **Apologetics**, how to best defend and explain our Catholic faith and beliefs. For the month of April our focus will be on **The Importance of Sacred Tradition**. We Catholics believe that the teachings of **Jesus and the Apostles** were preserved not only in Scripture but also by word of mouth and handed down to us. Sacred Tradition stands with Sacred Scripture to complement and confirm each other. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal devotion and reverence. When Sacred Scripture stands on its own, differences in interpretations take place, as seen today in many other churches. It takes Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, along with the Holy See to make sure that the Word of God is faithfully handed on to each succeeding generation. Sacred Tradition is the active, continuous work of the **Holy Spirit** in our time. (Reported by Earl Walker)