

the parish news

1 KANEHOE

St. Ann Parish

In February, our parish welcomed a new pastor, Sacred Hearts **Father Stephen Benjare**. Moving quickly to acquaint himself with the people of his new community, he convened a meeting with the **liturgical ministers** of the parish. Although this was by far the largest group of ministers assembled, he has made it his mission to meet and greet people active in all parish ministries. His proactive pastoral visits to the homebound were especially gratifying. In the spirit of hospitality, on April 21, families new to the parish were invited to a **Welcome New Families** gathering after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. An initiative of the **Stewardship Committee**, this intermingling of newcomers and veteran parishioners was designed to provide a friendly face and helpful name to people who are new to the parish, and in some instances new to Hawaii. Creating a simple but festive affair, attendees were encouraged to ask questions about their new community of faith and invited to become active participants in ministry. ... Recognizing the value of laity in fostering an active, faith-filled, community, the parish staff hosted a **Thank You Luau** on April 26. Complete with food, flowers and music, a wonderful time was enjoyed by all. Pictured, capping off the month with a **Spiritual Gifts Retreat** on April 27, Father Stephen led reflections focusing on our God-given talents. Stressing that every one of us has at least one talent, he proceeded to direct those present through a spiritual gifts assessment. In addition to uncovering her strengths, one parishioner remarked, "This retreat was a wonderful confirmation that I am finding the right outlet for my gifts in different ministries. I came to understand that using my spiritual gifts would bring me joy as I was helping others." (Reported by Trudy Rawlins; photo by Father Patrick Tukidia)

2 KAHUKU

St. Roch Parish

On April 13 we had our second **craft fair** on church grounds. Coordinator **Jama Hudson** gathered lots of vendors, each selling very unique crafts. Parishioners (pictured) manned a booth with water, juice and popular Filipino treats. Another craft fair is planned in August. ... On April 20, a successful car wash by religious education teachers, students and parents raised funds for our RE activities. Thank you all who supported this event. ... April 24 was **Secretary Day**. We recognize and thank our volunteer secretary of five years, **Kay Yumoto-Wagner**, for her time and talent keeping the office running in top shape. ... On May 26, **Father PJ** will offer a special Mass for all our preschool, elementary, high school and college graduates. Congratulations to all. ... Also, May 26 is our annual year-end **CCD Fun Day**. This year we will add **Volunteer Appreciation Day** to the mix. We will have lots of games, good food and, we hope, great weather. ... On June 1, our Sunday Mass schedule will change with each Mass moved forward one-half hour to 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Our Sunday fellowship continues after each Mass. Ministries take turns each Sunday setting up, serving and cleaning up. We will begin with our newly formed **Communication Ministry**. ... May is the month of Mary. We will recite the



rosary at the grotto each evening at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. ... Our **Filipino Catholic Club** president **Jarma Hudson** has stepped down after serving for several years. Jarma attended all meetings and neighborhood conventions, and hosted other clubs for meetings and lunch at our church. She organized fundraisers, one of which is happening now. We are selling Bangas fish and longanisa sausage. Contact our parish to buy. Jarma taught the group hula which they shared at many of our events. She also purchased matching outfits for the entire group. Jarma went above and beyond to keep the FCC strong and active. Jarma, we thank you wholeheartedly. Parishioner **Katy Shaw** has stepped up to fill the FCC president position. Katy is a full-time elementary school nurse, a yoga instructor and has taught CCD at St. Roch for seven years. Thank you, Katy, and best wishes as you move forward. (Reported by Sharin Au)

3 KALIHI VALLEY

Our Lady of the Mount

On April 14, **Pastor's Day** at our parish, **Father Edgar Brillantes** celebrated his 44th **sacerdotal ordination anniversary** with a solemn Thanksgiving Mass at 5 p.m. In attendance were parishioners, friends and former parishioners of previous parish assignments. His message

on the occasion: "Amidst our triumphant Alleluias this Easter, the glorious Lord has deemed me worthy to celebrate the 44th anniversary of my sacerdotal ordination. You have been part of this personal milestone through your prayers, presence, best wishes and support. You are such a tremendous source of encouragement and inspiration for me to go on serving the Lord and his Church as a joyful and faithful minister. As I thank you wholeheartedly for your friendship and genuine love for us priests, I pray that you and your family may be embraced by God's love and showered with heavenly blessings." Joining the fellowship were fellow priests, **Father Leonard Tubana** of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish; **Father Greg Honorio**, vicar for clergy; **Father Mario Raquero** of St. Stephen Parish; and **Father Manny Hewe** of St. Theresa Co-Cathedral and vicar forane. Also present was **Sister Mercy Estrella, SPC**. Father Edgar is originally from the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines and was incardinated to the Diocese of Honolulu in 2008. We rejoice and give thanks for the Lord Jesus never ceases to share with us the abundance of his gracious blessings through his priests. (Reported by Francisca Kovaloff; photo by Armelita Canoneo)

4 EWA BEACH

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Our parish welcomed 10 candidates for full initiation at the Easter Vigil this year. They received their three initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. After almost two years of preparation, candidates, families and friends rejoiced and were excited, even through the three-hours long liturgy of the Easter Vigil. The 10 were **Kemu-kisa Lei Brighter, Denlyn Campos, Kelsey Corley, Gabrielle La Puente, Payton La Puente, Kairie Oclinaria, Matthew Pascual, Jaheem Koon Wai You, Jahrie'on Koon Wai You, and Jahrome Koon Wai You**. They are pictured flanked by their catechists, **Deacon Rey Dinulong**, and **Father Edmund Barut**, pastor. The 10 neophytes now move to the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy. The parish would like to thank their catechists **Donna Lyn Baguio, Stephanie Belaski, Josey Choe, Mela Kim, Minnie Rabacal, Eleanor Ragojo and Lyn Salis**. (Reported by Julia Torres)

5 PAUOA VALLEY

Blessed Sacrament Parish

On Easter Sunday our parish celebrated the confirmation for two adult parishioners who went through the **OCIA** program. We

congratulate **Tara Dodge** and **Nohea Chang** who were prepared by **Father Steve Nguyen** and a team of parishioners who walked the journey with them. May the light of the Lord and our Blessed Lady continue the journey of passing the faith and joy of the flame of love throughout our parish and beyond. Pictured from left are **Rhoderika Miranda, Cora Orbito, Abi, Tara Dodge, Nohea Chang, Elizabeth Lum, Mario Orbito, Father Steve Nguyen and Deacon Joseph Soon**. (Reported by Leimomi Kondo)

6 PAHOA

Sacred Heart Parish

On April 14, **Bishop Larry Silva** visited to administer the sacraments of confirmation and first holy Communion to faith formation students from our parish and from **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Papaikou**. Pictured here with the bishop and **Deacon Charles Mapa** and **Father John Molina** are the 21 children who completed the rites of initiation: left to right, from Sacred Heart, **Emmanuel Sorcy-Nethon, Nalu Pacheco, Onyx Sorcy, Henes Made, Laurence Tolentino Jr., Anne Trexler, Claire Trexler, Arjellie Villanueva, Jamal Refit, Ciena Corla, Arjean Villanueva, Aires Villanueva, Ciela Corla, Aizyl Villanueva, Archie Villanueva, Jaeliana Akapito and Iselle Sebastian**. From Immaculate Heart of Mary, **Angel Uganiza, Javon Itabac, Riley Sibucan and Anika Winchester-Stanley**. (Reported by Janan Malinowski)

7 HILO

St. Joseph Parish

Our parish sponsored a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** sharing group on April 28. Mahalo to **Deacon David Watson** and pastor **Father Apolinario Ty, SSS**, for hosting. (Reported by Erin Gallogly & Nick Tatistcheff)

8 PUNAHOU

Sacred Heart Parish

Thank you so much for celebrating with us **jubiliarians** last Saturday, April 20, at St. Theresa Co-Cathedral! It was a day of many blessings! I thank and praise God for all who made it possible for me to be faithful in my calling as a Maryknoll missionary sister. With grateful aloha and much appreciation. The photo was taken April 21, when I was blessed by **Father EJ Resinto**, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Punahou. (Reported by Maryknoll Sister Aurora de la Cruz)

9 KEAAU

Holy Rosary Church

On April 14, at the 7:30 a.m. Mass, **Joshua Foronda** (next to **Father Samuel Loterte**) and **Isaia Edmonds Wong** (third from left), newly confirmed by **Bishop Larry Silva** on April 13, were so excited to serve our Lord as altar servers the very next day. They were trained by altar coordinator **Jacob Perry**, and **Deacon Jim Dougherty**, their spiritual formator. **Danie Villena**, sacristan, (right) continues to mentor them as they are serving alongside him. Father Loterte encourages the youth to get involved in our parish life. God bless you all as you continue your mission through your love of service. ... Our **Flores de Mayo-Santa Cruzan Festival**, May 18, starts at 9 a.m. Come and join us as we honor our Blessed Mother. We will also gather as one parish family in our effort for evangelization. Our Princesses of

Faith (**Webrei Pamo**), Hope (**Jonalei Simpliciano**) and Love (**Amara Adaoag**) randomly selected the virtues they represented. Taking the part of **Reyna Elena** (Queen Helena) is **Chanelle Cabaccang**, who will reenact the finding of the Holy Cross. The Princess of Love, Amara-Mikaela, daughter of **Ivan and Ashley Adaoag**, was born on July 11, 2017, a micro-premature baby — 1 pound, 8.5 ounces, and 12.2 inches long. She was truly a miracle baby. She fits the role of Princess of Love. Because of the love of God for her, Amara was able to endure hardships with surgery after surgery. As she grows up, she has a loving soul who cares for everyone. She loves her little brother **Zach**, her parents, grandparents and friends. She is the embodiment of God's love. (Reported by **Linda Villena**)



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10 HAIKU
St. Rita Parish

It was a great blessing to have two **Missionaries of Faith priests** celebrating Mass at our parish! Former pastor **Father Chacko Muthoottil** who served at St. Rita for seven years visited the last weekend in April. It was a wonderful surprise for all who attended the weekend services. Pictured are **Father Robert Ni Ni, Kimo and Mona Chong Kee, Father Chacko Muthoottil** and **Mike Buxbaum**. (Reported by **Esther Yap**)



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11 WAIALUA
St. Michael Parish

In preparation for Lent, **Sts. Peter and Paul Mission** on the North Shore, the **youth ministry** and the **religious education classes**, created stations of the cross on the property. On the Fridays of Lent, the stations of the cross was prayed by the community. The stations were lit each night by solar lights, creating a heavenly presence. The mission also had a **Divine Mercy group** that met each day at 3 p.m. at the church to pray the Divine Mercy Novena. Taking the time to focus on the daily prayers and the words of **St. Faustina** brought us great spiritual benefits and created a bonding experience that allowed mighty graces to flow in us and through us. Jesus, we trust in you. Pictured from left, **Magdalena Labradour, Carolyn Ala-**



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14

meida, Cyndie Moss, Charlie and Lolita Oropeza, Connie Gazmen and Kip Orian. The leis that adorned the Image were woven by **Prudence McKinney**. ... Our first Communion and confirmation at St. Michael's on April 21 was a beautiful event, and our confirmands were filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We were honored to have **Bishop Larry Silva** enlighten our youth (and all of us present) with his words, and his blessings. Our youth experienced the mighty power of the Holy Spirit and know that the graces they received will draw them closer to a life with

Jesus Christ. They are called to be Christ in the world and the charge is accepted with JOY! Pictured are our recipients from St. Michael School, St. Michael Church and Sts. Peter and Paul Mission. After Mass we gathered to share a meal and enjoy fellowship — a night of many blessings. (Reported by **Carolyn Alameida**)

12 KAILUA
St. John Vianney Parish

Our parish along with other parishes in our diocese took up a special collection on April 27-28 to help advance the cause of canonization

for **Joseph Dutton**, who worked as a missionary with St. Damien in Kalaupapa. Dutton was a Civil War veteran and Union Army lieutenant who converted to Catholicism. On Molokai, he lived among and served those suffering with leprosy. After Damien died, he continued caring for the sick for 35 years. The funds raised will allow the important work to continue in the Vatican so that he may become Hawaii's third saint. ... The first Saturday of each month our parish conducts an **anointing of the sick and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. On May 4 the anoint-

ing was offered to those suffering from a serious illness, facing a serious surgery, or whose health is impaired by advanced age. Following Mass, all were invited to our adoration service and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. ... The month of May is traditionally dedicated to honor and seek the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church. Throughout the centuries, the church has turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary to come closer to Christ. The church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf. On Sunday, May 5, after the 11 a.m. Mass, our parish held a **May Crowning of Mary's statue** in our grotto. (Reported by **Earl Walker**)

13 MOUNTAIN VIEW
St. Theresa Parish

On April 20, in the St. Joseph School cafeteria, free **AED and CPR training** was provided by **JD Domizio** of **Hilo Medical Center Foundation** to parishioners of St. Theresa and Holy Rosary, Keaau. HMCDF donated the AED equipment to our church. The AED was procured through the efforts of **Yvonne Wong**, our parish stewardship hospitality pillar coordinator. During our meetings, we raised concerns for the need of this equipment. Within a year, we received the free AED. We thank JD, Hilo Medical Center Foundation, Yvonne Wong, St. Joseph School and **Danie Villena** who set up and reserved the place for the training. (Reported by **Linda Villena**)

14 WAILUKU
St. Anthony Parish

This joyful picture is of our 11 newly baptized children at the Easter Vigil with our pastor, **Msgr. Terry Watanabe**. The children, ranging in age from 8 to 12, were baptized by full immersion, confirmed, and received first holy Communion on March 30 by Msgr. Terry. Their parents, sponsors, extended family and the parish community of St. Anthony joined in the cheerful and happy celebration including dancing around the church after Communion with **Father Ace Tui** singing "Lord of the Dance." (Reported by **Tanya Barbero**)

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THANKSGIVINGS

HOLY SPIRIT: Holy Spirit, you who makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach my idea. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget all the wrong that is done to me and you. Who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and affirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. To that end and submitting to God's holy will, I ask from you (request). Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory Be for three days. TAKSG



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