

# THE SCHOOL NEWS

## 1 PEARL CITY

### Our Lady of Good Counsel School

In a landmark event for Our Lady of Good Counsel School, the campus hosted its first-ever Eucharistic procession during **Catholic Schools Week** on Jan. 29. The procession began at the school's Marian grotto, with the Eucharist carried in the monstrance. Participants, including students, faculty and community members, sang hymns and offered prayers as they followed the path. The procession concluded at the hula mound, where attendees gathered for a moment of reflection and community prayer. Principal **Chantelle Luarca** highlighted the event as a "beautiful representation of our faith in action," celebrating the school's strong Catholic identity and community. *(Reported by Chantelle Luarca)*



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

## 2 KEKAHA

### St. Theresa School

Just when we thought things would slow down a bit after the holiday hustle and bustle, January was nuts! We had our annual **Spelling Bee** and after serious tension and anxiety, fifth grader **Anthony Riola** took second place, and eighth grader **Noah Balmores** emerged victorious. Both competed in the District Bee on Feb. 6. Mahalo to our pronouncer, **Margaret Sanchez**, Chancellor at Kauai Community College, and to our judges, Dr. Llewellyn Young, Superintendent of Hawaii Catholic Schools, and **Capt. Brett Stevenson**, CO at the **Pacific Missal Range Facility**. We had two teams of students compete in the District Science and Engineering Fair. Our eighth-grade team, **Lily Santiago, Hiiaka Acoba** and **Oliver Alonge** took first place and are moving on to the state competition. Our sixth-grade team, **Kaioli Acoba, Lincoln Duey** and **Jordyn Moreno**, took third place and will also move on to the state competition. Is the national competition in their future? We think they can do it! ... **Catholic Schools Week** had lunches with buddies, games, treats and special STREAM activities that included cannonball launchers, a trip through the geologic eras of the earth, animal exhibits, slime and art activities. **Kid Pan Alley** also stopped by to write some amazing songs with our learners. All were impressed by the thought and creativity that went into the songs. Maybe we can slow down for February! *(Reported by David Verdugo)*

## 3 HONOLULU

### Holy Family Catholic Academy

As part of our **Catholic Schools Week** celebration, our school held a second-annual **Souper Bowl** to gather donations of soup and other non-perishable food items for the **Our Lady of Good Counsel food pantry**. Each homeroom gathered items in friendly competition and each can of food was worth one point for either the **Kansas City Chiefs** or the **Philadelphia Eagles**. In the end, the Chiefs were our 2025 Souper

Bowl champions, with a final tally of 719 to 696. Our **eighth graders** boxed up all 1,415 items and loaded them up to be delivered to OLGC. *(Reported by Julia Hudson)*

## 4 MAKAWAO

### St. Joseph Early Learning Center

We kicked off the celebration of **Catholic Schools Week** with a "Service Day." Pictured above is the **Butterfly Class** setting up a display board and bookmarks in church made to highlight the coming events for the week. The students cleaned the church and did

ground beautification for both the church and school. On Tuesday the students honored their patron saint, St. Joseph, by wearing the color green to school. Wednesday was "Cultural Day" and Thursday the students had fun with a "Movie and Pajama Day." To close the week the teachers and staff participated in the Annual Conference for Catholic Educators statewide Mass and workshops. Thank you to the team at **Hawaii Catholic Schools** for all their support to make this week enlightening. *(Reported by Helen Souza)*

## 5 KAILUA

### St. John Vianney School

Our parish hosted its school's 14th annual "**Breakfast with the Bishop**" on Sunday, Jan. 26, with Bishop Larry Silva. A delicious buffet was served at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and Noon to more than 400 people in the parish hall at 920 Keolu Drive. All guests were greeted by Bishop Silva, our pastor **Father Vincent Vu** and our principal **Caryn DeMello**. Celebrities and special guests included Miss Hawaii Teen **Nicole McClain**, Miss Elementary America **Siena-Grace Tufaga**, Hawaiian entertainer **Hoku Zuttermeister**, KGMB meteorologist **Drew Davis**, actresses **Sydney and Siena Agudong**, and three cast members from **NCIS Hawaii, Alex Tarrant, Jason Antoon** and **Seana Kofoed**. Some of the celebrities also flipped pancakes. Entertainment was provided by the school's hula halau, under the direction of **Jack McKeague**, and our young musicians under the direction of **Kekoa Kato** and **Tiffany Gore**. Bishop Silva spoke on the importance of a Catholic education. The meal was prepared by the school's chefs and served by the school's teachers and parents. Funds raised will be used to support the school's tuition assistance programs. *(Reported by Earl Walker)*

## 6 HILO

### St. Joseph School

Across the country each Jan. 9, citizens show support of their police departments on **National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day**. This year, St. Joseph School's **junior class of 2026** partnered with **Puro Clean of the Big Island** for a presentation to the **Hawaii Police Department**. Students met **Capt. Rio Ammon-Wilkins** at the Hawaii Police Department's Memorial Wall and presented him with a bag of thank-you gifts to share with his officers, along with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the officers of Hilo who serve our community. *(Reported by Kimberly Arianoff)*

## 7 HONOLULU

### Maryknoll School

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2025, pictured, are Maryknoll School and Sacred Heart Church pastor **Father EJ Resinto** with Maryknoll students. Maryknoll School kicked off Catholic Schools Week 2025 on Jan. 26 with 11 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Resinto. It was a joy to have our students join us in worship with many of them serving as altar servers, gift bearers, ushers and choir members. Catholic schools are truly a place where faith is learned, lived, and loved! *(Reported by Lori A.K. Carlos)*



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