

Hawaii's 2025 JUBILARIANS

“God, our Father, guide of humanity and ruler of creation, look upon these your servants, who wish to confirm their offering of themselves to you. As the years pass by, help them to enter more deeply into the mystery of the church and to dedicate themselves more generously to the good of humanity.”

Prayer of the renewal of vows from the Mass of Religious Profession

Celebrating lives of discipleship

Bishop Larry Silva will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 5.

All are invited.

75



Sister Mary Carmen Paas, CSJ

Born: Honolulu

Community: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Celebrating: 75 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 19 (1960-69, 2000-07, 2022-present)

Past ministries: Elementary education in California (San Diego, Vallejo, Los Angeles), Arizona (Prescott, Tucson), Washington (Pasco) and Hawaii (Oahu, Maui)

Present ministry: Prayer and witness to our loving and unifying God

Biography/reflection: “And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you” (Psalm 39:7).

Throughout my religious life, my hope has always been my God who has blessed me with faith-filled parents and 11 supportive siblings, a good public education, an active faith life in my home parish of St. Joseph (Waipahu), a nurturing religious congregation with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, numerous friends from my years of ministry, many dynamic life and travel experiences (especially attending the canonization of St. Damien and exploring the Vatican sites), a variety of interests and hobbies (church music, string instruments, crafts, crocheting and sports) and much, much more.

As we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope, my hope is that our national government leaders will work on goals centered on improving the earth, seeking justice for the sufferings of humanity and faithfully responding to the needs of God’s people.

70



Sister Laura Abat, OSF

Born: Honokohua, Maui; 1936

Community: Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

Celebrating: 70 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 58

Past ministries: Elementary and secondary teacher, New Jersey and New York; director of religious education, California; librarian, Saint Francis School, Honolulu; teacher, librarian and principal, St. Joseph School, Hilo; public librarian, Maui; pastoral associate, St. Theresa Church, Kihei

Present ministry: Franciscan presence at The Plaza at Kaneohe

Biography/reflection: After high school graduation, Laura Abat traveled to Syracuse, New York, to join the Sisters of St. Francis; she received the religious name Sister James Joseph. She was inspired to do this because the sisters she knew were so friendly and always full of joy. Her own friendliness and joyfulness got her the nickname “Jimmy-Jo.”

“I am grateful for having had the opportunity of serving God’s people in a wide variety of ministries and it has given me great joy to be able to use my gifts and talents with both children and adults.

“I owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals, living and deceased, religious and lay who have modeled for me what it means to live a life wholly committed to Christ. I extend my deepest gratitude to those who have and continue to support me in prayer on my spiritual journey.”

As a part of the Plaza community, she continues to share her friendliness and joyful Franciscan spirit with everyone.



Sister Mary Josephine Araki, SSCC

Born: Honolulu; 1934

Community: Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (and perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of the altar)

Celebrating: 70 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 31

Past ministries: Elementary school teacher, St. Patrick School, Honolulu; elementary school teacher, Maria Regina School, Gardena, California

Present ministry: Retired; care of senior sisters

Biography/reflection: Ever since attending Sacred Hearts Convent school and later attending Sacred Hearts Academy, I felt a call to religious life since I witnessed the kindness of the sisters with whom I came in contact.

After graduating from Sacred Hearts Academy in 1953, I entered the congregation in August of the same year. While my postulancy was here in Nuuanu, I had the good fortune in 1959-1960 to go to our motherhouse in Picpus, France, to prepare for my final profession.

While in France I experienced the birthplaces of our founders,

Henriette Aymer de la Chevalerie and Marie-Joseph Coudrin, as well as absorbed the history of our congregation during the time of the French Revolution.

On my return from France I furthered my studies and graduated from Chaminade University of Honolulu in 1965. While I taught in the elementary grades from second to seventh grade, my greatest joy was teaching my second graders, especially preparing them for their first holy Communion.

Now my time is spent caring for those sisters who taught and cared for me and living the charism of our congregation by adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Miriam Dionise Cabacungan, OSF

Born: Wailuku; 1934

Community: Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

Celebrating: 70 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 60

Past ministries: Nursing and spiritual liaison, St. Francis Healthcare System, Liliha and West; Kalaupapa

Present ministries: Franciscan presence at The Plaza at Kaneohe; volunteer, St. Francis Healthcare System

Biography/reflection: After graduating from St. Anthony Girls High School on Maui, I enrolled as a nursing student at St. Francis School of Nursing in Honolulu for 1-1/2 years. Answering the call of our Lord, I left to enter the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse, New York, in 1955. I completed my nursing degree at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Utica, New York, in 1958. I was privileged to have walked in the footsteps of Mother Marianne Cope caring for the sick at St. Elizabeth Hospital and later at St. Joseph Hospital in Syracuse.

One of my memorable missions for three years was working with the patients in Kalaupapa, Molokai, where I evidenced a close-knit community: Catholics, Protestants and Mormons. We celebrated all the holidays and festivities together, even praying and supporting each other when one of the residents went home to the Lord.

Another memorable mission was my assignment at St. Francis Hospice in Nuuanu for 20 years. I found caring for the patients who were terminally ill and praying with and supporting families and friends as they went through the process of grieving, separation and dying helped me to know and understand what death is all about.

With the grace of God, I have been able to serve him for 70 years as a Sister of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities. Through it all, I often recite Psalm 139, my favorite. It speaks of God's omnipotence, goodness and mercy.

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Sister Rosalinda S. Barrozo, MM

Born: Mangatarem, Pangasinan, Philippines; 1937

Community: Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

Celebrating: 60 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 51

Past ministries: Social worker and pastoral associate, Philippines; photographer/videographer at Maryknoll Sisters Center (working in South America, Panama City and Darien); mission research in Pacific region; project director for social service program for retired plantation workers in Waimanalo; coordinator for Maryknoll Fathers' Philippines Lay Missionary Program on Hawaii Island; case manager, Catholic Charities Hawaii; pastoral associate at Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, Honolulu, and St. Anthony Church, Kalihi; director, diocesan Office for Filipino Ministry; congregational service in Maryknoll, New York; extraordinary minister of holy Communion

Present ministries: Volunteer outreach program at St. Pius X Church, Manoa; associate spiritual director, diocesan Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs

Reflection: It has been a feeling of joy to receive and give the spirit of aloha to all the people I have encountered in the islands. Thank you very much!



Sister Benedicta Young Hee Ha, SDP

Born: South Korea; 1943

Community: Sisters of Divine Providence

Celebrating: 50 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 19

Past ministries: Pastoral work with Hawaii's Korean Catholic Community

Present ministries: Sacristan, Visitation Chapel for the Sisters of Divine Providence; instructor, Chaminade University of Honolulu; artist

Biography: Sister Benedicta Ha entered religious life from Mung-dong Cathedral Church in Seoul, Korea.

She was raised in a home that had deep faith and credits that for influencing her vocation.

Sister Benedicta's past ministries include building supervisor in South Korea; formation director and council member; professor of Oriental art in Korea and Hawaii; parish and CMC hospital ministry in Seoul, Cleveland and Honolulu; and solo art exhibitions in Seoul, Germany, Honolulu and Pittsburgh.

For Sister Benedicta, creating art is like meditation or prayer and an opportunity for reflection. Peace is a running theme through her art and through her life.

Sister Benedicta still creates artwork and teaches studio art classes throughout the year at Chaminade University.



Brother Gary E. Morris, SM

Born: San Francisco; 1946

Community: Society of Mary

Celebrating: 60 years, profession

Years of service in Hawaii: 28 (1969-75, 2003-present)

Past ministries: Teacher, Saint Louis School, Honolulu; teacher, Archbishop Riordan High School, San Francisco; associate provincial and director of education for the Marianist Province of the Pacific; associate professor, Chaminade University of Honolulu

Present ministry: Retired, in residence at Marianist Community, Honolulu

Biography: Gary E. Morris is a brother in the Society of Mary (Marianists) and is a recently retired professor of performing arts at Chaminade University of Honolulu.

He has directed, acted in and produced more than 100 plays on the mainland and in Hawaii. He was instrumental in founding the LIFE summer retreat program (Living in Faith Experience) for students from Marianist and other Catholic schools in Hawaii and California.

He has been associated with The Actors' Group (TAG) in Hawaii for the past 18 years. In addition to directing or acting in 12 of TAG's productions, he presently serves on the TAG board. He also finds the time to perform in Diamond Head Theatre musicals and has been honored with seven Pookela Awards as a director and an actor.

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Bishop Larry Silva

Born: Honolulu; 1949

Celebrating: 50 years, ordination

Years of service in Hawaii: 20 (2005-present)

Past ministries: Priest of the Diocese of Oakland for 30 years. Most of those years were in parish ministry, primarily in the inner city of Oakland. I served as director of vocations for four years and as vicar general for 1-1/2 years before being named Bishop of Honolulu.

Present ministry: Bishop of Honolulu

Biography/reflection: In 30 years as a priest, I enjoyed parish ministry most. A year after I was ordained a priest, my bishop sent me to Mexico to study Spanish, and I served the Spanish-speaking in parishes since that time. I did enjoy four years as director of vocations, and have always had a special fondness for the work of promoting vocations and supporting seminarians.

My last assignment in the Diocese of Oakland was as vicar general, and that gave me valuable experience that would help me when I became Bishop of Honolulu in 2005.

My most challenging assignment was to combine two separate parishes into one, while maintaining two campuses. It was frustrating and hard work, but I thank God it was basically successful.

In my 20 years as Bishop of Honolulu, I have been extremely blessed by the Lord and the wonderful people who are part of this beautiful diocese.



Father Herman Gomes, SSCC

Born: Honolulu; 1953

Community: Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Celebrating: 50 years, profession

Years of service in Hawaii: 50

Past ministries: Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Church, Honolulu; pastor, St. Joseph Church, Makawao; pastor, St. Ann Church, Kaneohe; faculty, Damien Memorial School; adjunct faculty, Chaminade

University of Honolulu; provincial superior

Present ministry: Parochial vicar, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Pearl City

Biography/reflection: *I was very fortunate to be born in a very Catholic family. Both parents were active at St. Ann Church, Kaneohe. Sunday Mass was never an option for the three brothers and me.*

My parents managed to send us to Catholic schools. I am a product of and very grateful to the Maryknoll Sisters, the Sacred Hearts fathers and brothers, the Irish Christian Brothers and the brothers of the Marianist community.

There have been a number of challenges, especially to my health, but by the grace of God I have been privileged to be a brother of the Sacred Hearts working in this blessed vineyard called Hawaii!



Father Dennis Michael Koshko

Born: Los Angeles; 1946

Community: Diocesan

Celebrating: 50 years, ordination

Years of service in Hawaii: 42 (arrived in 1967, served as a deacon in 1974, ordained a priest in 1975, retired from active ministry in 2016)

Past ministries: St. John Apostle and Evangelist Church, Mililani; Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, Honolulu; chaplain for the Hawaii Police Department, Honolulu Police Department and U.S. Navy; St. Joseph Church, Hilo; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Honokaa; St. Anthony Church, Kailua; Holy Trinity Church, Aina Haina

Present ministry: Retired

Biography/reflection: *I attended St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California; my classmates included Bishop Larry Silva, Msgr. Gary Secor, Frank De Lima and Father Eli Carter. I received my master's in theology and divinity studies from Chaminade University of Honolulu in 1975.*

My service in the U.S. Navy allowed me to serve the Lord in far-away places like North Carolina, the Mediterranean, Honduras and Adak, Alaska. Although I was born and raised in California, I feel especially honored and grateful to have served here in Hawaii.



Father Victor Lanuevo

Born: Manila; 1949

Community: Diocesan

Celebrating: 50 years, ordination

Years of service in Hawaii: 43

Past ministries: Parish priest, military chaplain

Present ministry: Retired

Biography/reflection: *Being new in Hawaii in 1982, I had the desire to be one with the local community, especially with the priests and nuns.*

I met Sister Kathleen Marie Shields who was in charge of catechetical programs in the diocese. I came to know Father John Doherty in the Newman Center. They were very welcoming, and they made me feel needed to do ministry in Hawaii.

I did parish work, hospital ministry and I was the spiritual director for the Engaged Encounter Weekend for five years. Then I was activated in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War and stayed in the military till 2013. Being combat deployed for four years helped me feel the sense of mortality. I like this saying: Life is fragile, handle it with care!

Now, twice a month I do volunteer work of cleaning the cemetery plots of the 36 diocesan priests who are buried in Hawaiian Memorial Park. I also visit my parents who are buried in Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery plots of the priests with fresh flowers and trimmed grass look lovely. And I have good memories of most of the priests. I always take a photo of the cemetery plots and share it with Bishop Larry Silva and Msgr. Gary Secor.



Sister Maria Rosario Tuvida, OP

Born: Bacolod City, Philippines; 1946

Community: Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines

Celebrating: 50 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 21

Past ministries: Elementary school teacher in California and Hawaii; CCD director, St. Joseph Church, Makawao; Maui Cursillo director; diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs

Present ministries: Receptionist, Rosary Preschool, Waipio; lector, Resurrection of the Lord Church, Waipio; Dominican lay associates; vocation promotion

Biography/reflection: *"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Mt 7:7).*

Born and raised Catholic, I attended public school from elementary grades to college. Two of my cousins are Catholic sisters, so religious life was a normal part of my dynamic.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in elementary education, I taught for two years at Notre Dame of Makilala, Philippines, until I was no longer able to resist what I felt was God's dream for me to enter

the religious life. My heart had finally found what it had been seeking.

As I looked back, a number of things drew me to my community, the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary — focus on prayer, study, apostolate and preaching.

So far, I've been delighted by all the wonderful people I've met along the way. I continue to be inspired by their faith and dedication in teaching. All along, I've trusted that God would provide whatever I needed to flourish, and, so far, I have not been disappointed.

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Sister Ursolina (Rosal) Santos Asinas, SMF

Born: Pakil, Laguna, Philippines; 1966

Community: Missionary Sisters of Faith

Celebrating: 25 years

Years of service in Hawaii: 3.5 (2021-present)

Past ministries: Kindergarten teacher in Italy; catechism teacher

Present ministry: Parish office, Maria Lanakila Church, Lahaina, Maui

Biography/reflection: *During my ministry, the more I dedicate myself to prayer while serving, the stronger my vocation becomes, and I feel more certain of my calling.*



Father Arlan Garcia Intal, MS

Born: Pampanga, Philippines; 1975

Community: Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette

Celebrating: 25 years, ordination

Years of service in Hawaii: 10 (April 2015-present)

Past ministries: Parochial vicar and priest minister, Diocese of San Bernardino, California; interim pastor, St. Anthony Church, Kalihi; pastor, St. Raphael Church, Koloa, Kauai

Present ministry: Pastor, St. Anthony Church, Kalihi

Biography/reflection: *Rev. Arlan Intal, MS, is a professed religious priest from the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette since 2000.*

Prior to his assignment in the Diocese of Honolulu from 2015-present, he served mostly as parochial vicar and priest minister in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, from 2006-2015. Upon his arrival in Hawaii, he became an interim pastor at St. Anthony Church, Kalihi. From 2015-2021, he became the pastor at St. Raphael Church in Koloa, Kauai. He is now the pastor at St. Anthony Church, Kalihi, from 2021-present.

As a graduate of San Carlos Seminary in the Philippines where seminarians are trained to work in the parishes, Father Arlan enjoys working in the parish setting where he meets and work with all kinds of people in life.



Sister Ma. Belen R. Policher, OP

Born: Roosevelt, Iligan City, Philippines; 1972

Community: Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines

Celebrating: 25 years

Years of service in Hawaii: six (first arrival in 2017, second arrival in 2022)

Past ministry: Teacher at Our Lady of Fatima Academy, Dao, Capiz, Philippines

Present ministry: Teacher at Rosary Preschool, Waipio

Biography/reflection: *A call always involves an invitation to freely come and see. I believe God planted the seed of vocation in me.*

I first learned about God through my parents. My happiness was to be always in church every Sunday Mass with my family. It was due to this enormous passion to serve God that I developed a dream of becoming a religious sister.

In my tertiary years, on top of being a full-time student, I held part-time jobs to be financially capable. It was during this time that I had a dream of Jesus calling me to serve and follow him. Jesus said, store treasure in heaven and detach yourself from the world.

Initially, I got bothered and became confused. I asked myself, "Why would God choose me?" This dream was followed by another one. This time it was Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary who appeared. These experiences were the encouragement for me to finally take up the challenge of entering the religious vocation.

Eventually, with the help of Mrs. Gilda Sarroza and family, together with her sister, Sister Mariana Salmo, OP, I finally entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines.

Throughout my life Our Blessed Mother Mary has always been my main inspiration and guide in my discernment. I would not change a thing of what God has destined for me to accomplish. Trusting him who desired my life, I said "yes" to him who loves me and pursued me so faithfully.