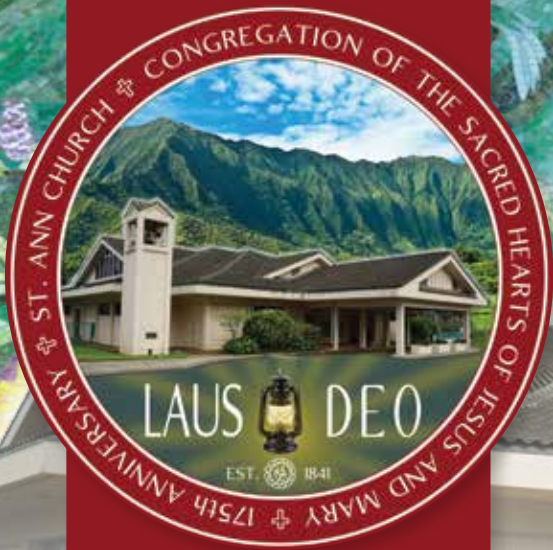


JUNE 2017

Saint Ann Church



HONOR AND GLORY

Religious Education and Celebrating 175 Years

“To the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Honor and Glory!” This has been the closing to our prayers and our theme for this special year in Religious Education.

Honor and Glory, celebrating 175 years!

Bob Noguchi, Religious Education Principal, says the students have been celebrating our parish’s 1841 founding, when our Religious Education program was also launched.

The Religious Education program wrapped up the school year on May 7 with 190 students taking part from grades pre-K through high school. The students held a prayer service and awards assembly when the Spirit of St. Ann Award was presented to a boy and girl in each grade level whose character embodied the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, and attendance awards also were presented. And to cap off the day - an ice cream treat in the classrooms!

“Our official title is Religious Education/Youth Ministry, or just REYM,” Bob says. “The Youth Ministry covers from seventh grade through the Confirmation students in high school, and the Religious Education students are pre-K through sixth grade, but we operate as one school.”



Members of our Youth Ministry took part in the Youth Ministry Leadership Training Retreat.

When looking back on the year, Bob points to a very big highlight.

“It was the ‘Cool 2 B Catholic Confirmation I Retreat,’” he says. “It’s usually high school freshmen in the biggest retreat. It’s really just an incredible experience. We cover the entire Liturgical Year in three days. We start the weekend with Advent on Friday night when we talk about anticipation and preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus. The kids wake up to Christmas, and then they go through

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Religious Education and Celebrating 175 Years

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Ordinary Time. In the evening, we go through Lent with the Passion of Jesus. We all went to bed Saturday after experiencing the Easter Vigil, and rise to Easter Morning on Sunday. We go through the entire year in three days. It's kind of our signature retreat for the kids. We have retreats for all the grade levels from elementary to high school. This is our big one. This year, we confirmed 22 kids on May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima's 100-year anniversary."

Although the regular school year has ended, our Keiki Bible School will be offered for the third year this summer with the theme "Under the Sea."

"It's a week-long program from Monday through Friday, beginning July 24 through July 28, from 9 a.m. to noon each day," Bob says. "It has become our signature event for the keiki, first grade through sixth grade. It's a really good program."

"Anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome," he continues. "We always encourage our parishioners to come out to help in the classroom."

Not only are you welcome to help during the summer, your help is always appreciated for the Religious Education program.

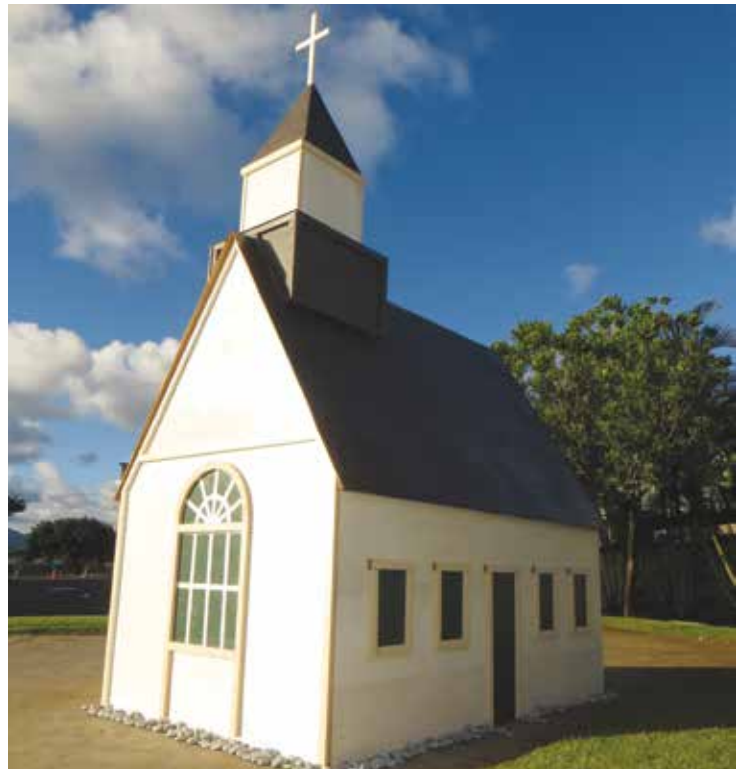
"We're always looking for more people to help in Religious Education," Bob says. "From our experience, it can be a way for parishioners to learn more about their faith and to give back the blessings they received. It's a great way to build a community of fellow parishioners. I've heard some say, because of participating in the program, they were like family. It's great for the parish to get to know each other."

And not only could you become closer in our family of Christ, but you also could be involved in a project like that of the Youth Ministry. To mark our 175th anniversary, the group built a replica of our original church building.

"Our original church was made out of coral from the bay," Bob says. "This has been displayed next to our church from the Christmas season until Lent. The Youth Ministry and students paraded it through the Kaneohe Christmas Parade and won Second Place."



Members of our Youth Ministry, Kenny Parker and Bob Noguchi, designed and constructed this replica of our original coral church building. The replica won second place in the Kaneohe Christmas Parade, and has graced our church campus from Christmas through Lent.



If you would like more information about the Religious Education program, or to volunteer, please call MaryRose in the Religious Education office at 808-247-3092, or mtimmons@saintannahawaii.org.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Time Is Limitless... Or Is It?

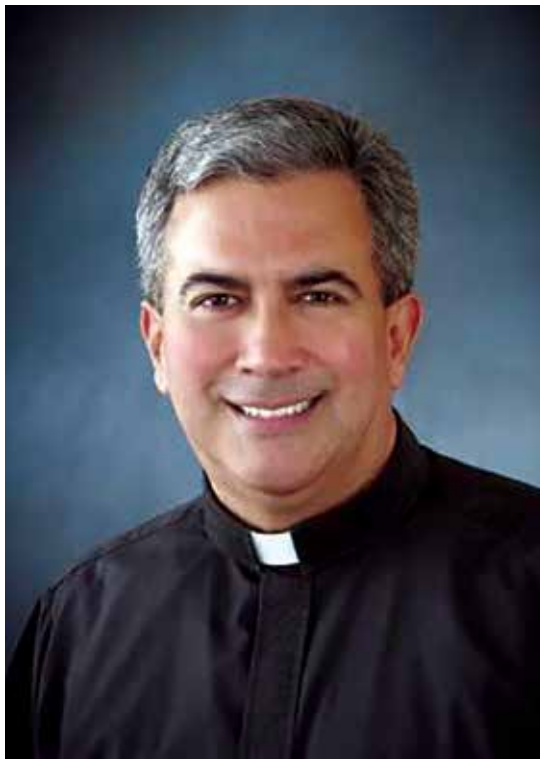
Dear Parishioners,

Some years ago, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics to renew their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June. In thinking about that, it made me realize that we all like to measure time – not necessarily in minutes and hours, but certainly in terms of what happens at particular times of the year. In the Church, we celebrate so many occasions that measure time – Easter, Christmas, Corpus Christi, Pentecost, Ordinary Time, the feast days of our saints, and much more, all of which give us that sense of moving forward.

In our own lives and the lives of our families, we mark birthdays, anniversaries, Baptism days, and more dates than we can possibly remember. These dates commemorate or remind us of a point in time. Time is also one of those gifts from God that we attach to the idea and life of stewardship.

We are fond of saying that time is the one thing given to all of us in equal amounts. However, we all know that is not necessarily true. Does a mother with several children have the same amount of time as a person with no family? Does a company manager who is expected to be available seven days a week have the same amount of time as someone who works a 9-to-5 job?

My point is that time is a valuable commodity, whether we feel like we have a lot or very little. God, on the other hand, is timeless. The Lord sees things in an eternal view, while we tend to look at it in shorter measures. The question is really



“What do we do with our time to serve others and to increase our relationship with God?” We have said many times that each of us needs to set aside time for both of those purposes – to serve and to pray. There is a reason it is called “prayer time.” Prayer should be a part of our lives, as much as eating, sleeping and working.

Another thing that June brings to mind is how life slows down for most of us. Young people are on summer vacation from school. Families and individuals take vacations. Unfortunately, some see it as a time to take a bit of vacation from worship. We can see it in declining Mass attendance and in the re-

duced number of activities within ministries and organizations.

We all mark time. We all know that it is limited, and can be fleeting. That is why even countries celebrate special days that mark time – throughout the summer season, Americans celebrate Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. How do we mark time as individuals, as families, and as a parish? That may say more about our understanding of stewardship than anything else. Maybe now, as summer is upon us, is the perfect time to concentrate *more* on our spiritual habits, rather than less.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Herman Gomes, S.S.C.E.
Fr. Herman Gomes,
Pastor



MEETING A PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

It's hard to turn on the television, open a newspaper or scroll through your newsfeed on Facebook without realizing there's a problem. All over the world, people live in hunger and suffering. It's not uncommon to see the face of a young child, sunken in and despairing, from a lack of adequate nutrition. And sometimes, you don't have to look any further than your own neighborhood to see someone who is worried about where their next meal might come.

For the past 25 years, the people of St. Ann have been working to help those in need through our food pantry, Project Share. Open five days a week, Project Share receives approximately 40 visits each month, from individuals and families in need. Some of those served by Project Share are homeless, while others are simply going through financial difficulties and are in need of assistance in providing food for their families.

Julie O'Conner has been working with Project Share since last summer, and is responsible for meeting with patrons who come looking for assistance. For Julie, the mission behind this ministry is simple – following the call of Christ to serve those in need.

“That's what we're called to do,” she says. “It's what Jesus would want us to do, to serve and care for others.”

“Scripture says to ‘do for the least of your brothers,’ and this is one of the ways that the Church is assisting those who are in need,” adds Sharon Mattos, who oversees Project Share. “I think it's important that it's part of what we as Catholics strive for, to help people in need.”

Julie hopes that Project Share will serve to remind people that, regardless of their circumstances, they are never alone, and they are always loved.

“I want them to know they are loved – not just by us, but the love of Christ, that's what we're here for,” Julie says. “Our mission is to spread the Good News. I want them to come away knowing there are people who genuinely care. It's not us giving, it's God giving – we're His instruments.”

“I love being able to talk to people and being there to listen, and to be able to share about God with them, if they're open,” she adds. “If they share, then my favorite part is sharing with them and showing them they are loved.”

Project Share serves to provide, not only food, but also occasionally other personal care items,



St. Ann parishioners and students generously contribute food, gently used clothing, toiletries, and even medical equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers to Project Share.

ITUAL HUNGER: PROJECT SHARE

clothing, and durable medical equipment. The pantry is stocked by donations through the parish, as well as through food drives, envelope collection, and various donations throughout the year. The students of St. Ann and the Early Learning Center also participate in Project Share through the annual Food Drive during the month of November.

Both Julie and Sharon are grateful for the generosity of parishioners, contributing to the Project Share food pantry.

“Our parishioners are so giving, they do not hesitate to give,” Julie says. “It’s a beautiful thing to always see something come in.”

“Our parish is extremely generous, so our pantry is never out of food,” Sharon adds. “All year long, they are dropping off food. Many mornings, I’ll come in and there’s a bag full of food. We do have a very generous parish.”

For those who serve in and donate to this ministry, it’s a reminder to be thankful for their bless-

ings, as well as to become more Christ-like in the ways they respond to others.

“God knows that this is where I need to be so I can remember that I am blessed, I am loved, and I have so many things to be thankful for,” Julie says. “They always say it’s a blessing that they can come here for food, but I tell them that it’s a blessing for me as well. They’re feeding me spiritually, teaching me to be humble and giving and not judgmental.”

Julie hopes that the efforts of the pantry will make a difference in people’s lives – not only by meeting a physical hunger, but also by opening their heart to God, so He can fulfill their spiritual needs, as well.

“I hope it makes them feel better about not just Catholics, but Christians and people in general,” she says. “There are people out there who do care and genuinely want to help. I want them to see that and know that, as the Catholic Church, we are here for you and are doing what Christ wants us to do.”



The donations of members of St. Ann allow Project Share to continue serving those in need, both in our parish and in the community around us.

If you would like more information on Project Share, or to find out the items of which the pantry is currently in need, please contact Sharon Mattos at 808-247-3092, ext. 124, or Julie O’Conner at 808-247-3092, ext.128 or joconner@saintannahawaii.org.



GOT TALENT?

Bring It to the Spotlight!

The word “talent” often conjures up images of stage performers in the spotlight, captivating awestruck audiences with their impeccable musical or acting skills.

While these talented performers are certainly deserving of applause, the majority of the population sits hidden in the shadows, staring on in amazement while feeling overlooked — and perhaps wishing to possess such talents themselves. But even when we feel overlooked and untalented, God knows better. As Christians, we are all called to dig deep and trust that we are specially blessed with valuable talents and abilities, even if our talents aren’t so obvious or don’t garner applause and accolades.

Along with “time” and “treasure,” “talent” is one of the “three Ts” of stewardship. Exploring our natural inclinations and preferences, especially when guided by the intricacies of our unique personalities, can unearth God-given talents.

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same spirit,” writes St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians. “There are different forms of service, but the same Lord.”

Some people have the gift of working peacefully with children. Equipped with patience and gentleness, they are able to guide young souls to the

Lord. Yet, others shudder at the thought of a classroom full of 5-year-olds, and instead seek the quiet solace of behind-the-scenes tasks — cleaning the church, sewing altar cloths or stuffing envelopes.

Our interests and abilities are varied, and our volunteer options are endless, as we are called to give our talents back to God in loving service. Examine your heart and prayerfully discern your gifts, then direct those gifts towards serving the people of God.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr., author of *Life’s Little Instruction Book*, once said, “Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There’s plenty of movement, but you never know if it is going to be forwards, backwards, or sideways.”

If our gifts of talent are not guided by the discipline of prayer, just like an octopus on roller skates, we will get nowhere fast! Yet, if we keep our eyes on the goal of heaven and serve the Lord with joyfulness, our efforts will produce a bountiful harvest. In the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully.”

The next time you sit quietly in the shadows behind a glaring stage spotlight, rest assured that your talents are no less impressive in the eyes of God, and will always be “applauded” when directed to the service of His people.

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HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Bringing Christ to Those in Need

We often hear that we are the hands and feet of Christ to those around us. For some members of our local Catholic community, this idea often becomes quite literal as they use their hands to bring the Body of Christ to their fellow parishioners.

Being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a special role that allows Catholics to directly participate in delivering the Eucharist to those homebound by age or illness. At St. Ann, the Homebound Ministry brings Communion both to parishioners aging in their homes and in senior living facilities.

"We currently have a roster of 19 lay ministers, plus a family of five who are trained for homebound ministry," explains Fr. Ed Popish. "Seven ministers have volunteered to cover specific large institutions all year long. Twelve of the ministers and the family of five visit 20 persons. Each is assigned to make weekly visits, one month at a time. Most of the time, they only have to make visits every other month."

These ministers visit 13 parishioners in their own homes, five residents at senior care residence Kina 'Ole Estate, and two residents at Hale Kū'ike Bayside, which specializes in memory care. Those charged with taking Communion to these individuals possess no special skills, just a willingness to step into a situation that might be outside of their comfort zone in the name of sharing Christ with others.

"We're here to minister to the person's spiritual needs," Fr. Ed says. "There are other people who take care of their physical and mental needs. Mostly they're there to be a spiritual presence, sharing the Word and being an encouraging outsider."

A typical visit begins when the minister is given a consecrated host or hosts at the end of Mass. Once they reach the person's home or nursing facility, the minister then assesses the situation to see what the recipient needs. If time permits, the minister can then do a short Scripture reading and reflection, or simply a prayer and Communion.

"We use a small book called *Communion of the Sick* and it gives them an appendix of readings for the prayer service," Fr. Ed says. "There are some reflections

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Fr. Ed Popish prepares to send a volunteer Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to visit a homebound parishioner this past Palm Sunday. Ministers such as this one become the hands and feet of Christ of those who can't make it to Mass to receive Communion.



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Homebound Ministry *continued from page 7*

on Scripture, so they don't have to become homilists."

While bringing the Eucharist to someone who ordinarily wouldn't have access to it might seem like a simple thing, Fr. Ed says would-be ministers should consider the beautiful spiritual implications that can come from the task.

"It's a way to grow in love for the Eucharist and to continue to gain confidence in your own faith," he says. "It's a way to embody Christ's call to be of service to others, especially the most in need. This is part of our final exam at the end of our life – 'When did you see me sick and visit me? Because when you did this for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did this for me.' This is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Many people make light work that if we get more volunteers, it becomes easier – they're not burdened with a lot of people to visit at one time."

"We're here to minister to the person's spiritual needs. There are other people who take care of their physical and mental needs. Mostly they're there to be a spiritual presence, sharing the Word and being an encouraging outsider." – Fr. Ed Popish

If you are interested in helping with the Homebound Ministry or wish to let the parish staff know about a loved one who could use a visit from the ministry, please give the St. Ann office a call at 808-247-3092.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.

Saturday: Vigil: 6 p.m. | **Daily Mass:** 7:00 a.m. | **Confession:** Saturday, 4 p.m.