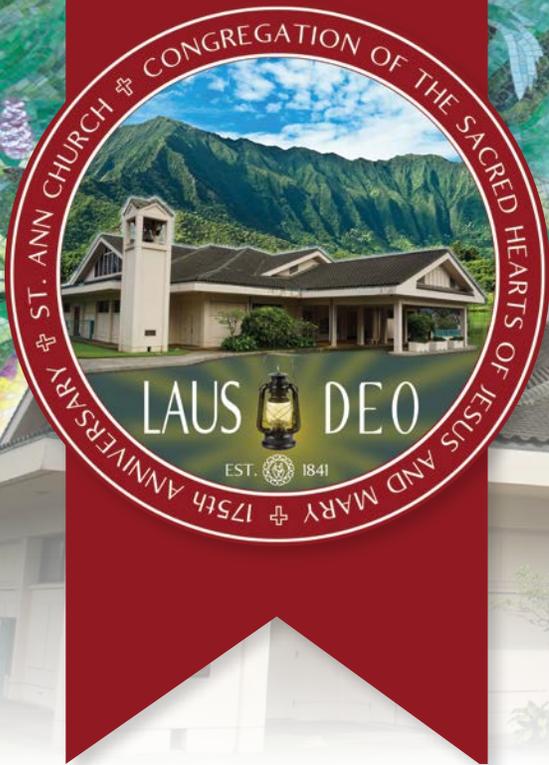


JANUARY 2018

Saint Ann Church

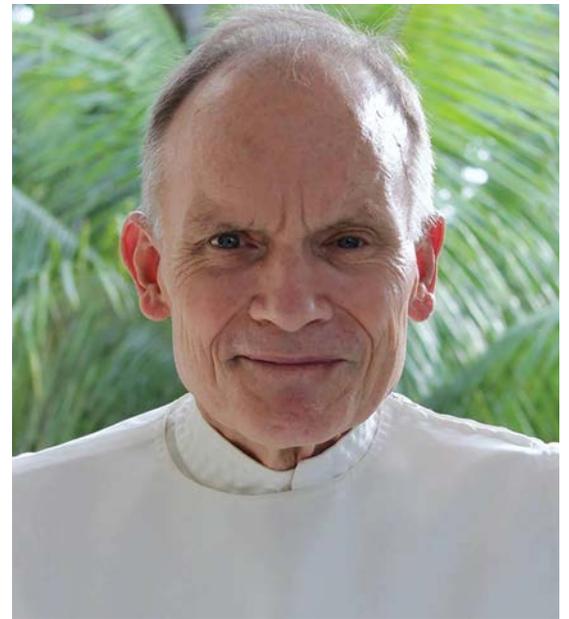


A WARM WELCOME BACK TO ST. ANN *Meet New Pastor Fr. Richard McNally*

This month, the faith community at St. Ann is thrilled to welcome Fr. Richard McNally as our new pastor! While this is the first time Fr. Rich will serve in the role of pastor here at St. Ann, some parishioners may remember him from his first assignment to our parish, when he served as Associate Pastor in 1991-92. Father still has very fond memories of the renewal of energy and life that he experienced during his first year here, and he is happy to be returning to our warm and vibrant parish.

In his many years of vocation to religious life and to the priesthood, Fr. Rich has had the opportunity to serve the Church around the world. Raised in a strong Catholic family in Massachusetts, Father realized he had a vocation to religious life — and perhaps even a call to the priesthood — by the time he was in high school. After attending a high school retreat with the Congregation of Sacred Hearts, Fr. Rich decided to join the order. He entered the Congregation in 1968, continued his studies at seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1975.

During his first 35 years in the priesthood, Father found himself serving in Massachusetts, upstate New York, Rome, and Paris. Finally, in 2013, he came to Hawaii as the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Wahiawa. This month, Fr. Rich comes to St. Ann from Fiji, where he has spent the last year as a superior at the house of formation for seminarians in the Congregation of Sacred Hearts.



Fr. Richard McNally

continued on page 2





A Warm Welcome Back to St. Ann: New Pastor Fr. Richard McNally continued from front cover

Fr. Richard is happy about his new assignment to St. Ann and enthusiastic about returning to parish life in our diocese.

“I’m looking forward to settling in and getting to know the people,” he says. “I like parish ministry, celebrating the Mass, and being with people in the good times and in the bad times. I’m excited to go back to that. And the Diocese of Honolulu is a great place to work. The diocese has a very good atmosphere and very good relationships among the priests and bishop.”

When Fr. Rich has time to himself, he enjoys reading — anything from *The Atlantic Monthly* to Tolstoy — and walking for exercise. While these pastimes help him maintain a healthy mind and body, Father seeks above all to continue to nourish his spirit. In addition to the Liturgy, which is the center of his faith life, Father also has a devotion to the Rosary, reads Scripture daily, and regularly spends time in Eucharistic Adoration.

Fr. Rich heartily recommends these same practices to any parishioner who may be seeking to deepen his or her faith.

“If my battery is going to stay charged, I need to be doing those three things — reading the Scripture, praying the Rosary, and praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament,” he affirms. “So, one of the things I advise people is to have some kind of regular spiritual practice — whatever that prayer is — and to just start with even five minutes a day and open themselves to the Lord’s presence.”

As Father prepares to celebrate his 50th anniversary in religious life this year, he is thankful for the many experiences, people, and places that have been a part of his faith journey.

“I’m always learning something, and God is always doing something new,” he says. “I’ve met very good people along the way — people that helped me to realize more about my vocation as a religious and as a priest. God is always working and doing something in my life, often working through others to affect me. The different places

I’ve been have all been a blessing in some way.”

Arriving at St. Ann as pastor this month will be a kind of homecoming for Fr. Rich, as he fondly recalls his first experiences serving our parish almost 30 years ago. He looks forward to working with his old friend, Fr. Ed, and to getting to know all of the staff and parishioners of St. Ann.

Fr. Rich joins us with a spirit of gratitude for his past experiences and sense of enthusiasm for those to come.

“I’m very thankful for my Christian Catholic Baptism, when the Lord brought me into His life, for entering in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, and for my priestly vocation,” he says.

Here at St. Ann, we extend our warmest welcome to Fr. Rich as the new pastor of our faith community!

“If my battery is going to stay charged, I need to be doing those three things — reading the Scripture, praying the Rosary, and praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. So, one of the things I advise people is to have some kind of regular spiritual practice — whatever that prayer is — and to just start with even five minutes a day and open themselves to the Lord’s presence.”

— Fr. Richard McNally

2018
New Year Resolutions

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Resolve to Give Back to God in 2018

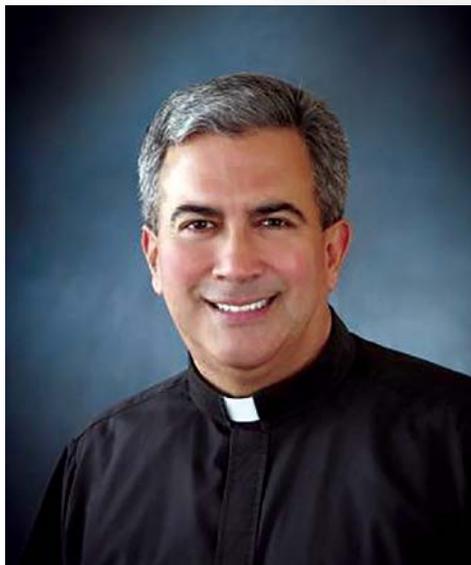
Dear Parishioners,

Another new year is here! I feel truly blessed to have spent the last 12 years as your pastor! As many of you know, I will begin a new assignment later this month. I was born and raised at St. Ann, and it will always feel like home to me. I will carry you all in my prayers as I move on to my next assignment. Please keep me in your prayers as well during this time of transition.

When I think of the year 2018, there was a time in my life when this date (and others) seemed so far off in the future. It is amazing how those dates start to pile up and stream by, isn't it? I have reached a point where measuring one's life by the years and dates is not as significant as many other things.

I recall reading somewhere, "The world around us asks, 'What does a person own?' But God asks, 'How does a person use what he or she has been given?'" This month of January is one filled with reminders of holiness — the official end of the Christmas season; the Epiphany of our Lord; the Baptism of the Lord; and the return to Ordinary Time, which, as we know, is not "ordinary" at all.

At Epiphany we hear, "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts" (Matthew 2:11), a reference to the Magi and their visit to the Christ Child. The im-



age of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their gifts for Him is one we should all try to follow. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus and offer Him what He needs. I heard a suggestion once that if you have a problem with this thought, you should perhaps keep one of the Magi from your Christmas Nativity set and place it on your desk as a reminder.

During the Baptism of the Lord, God makes it clear when He proclaims from the Heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). God has given us the greatest gift He could give. He gave His only Son. When we think about the enormity of that gift of Jesus sent to save us,

in addition to all the other blessings which God has entrusted to us, it is very humbling. God has given us so much. What do we give in return?

Making resolutions is common at this time of year. We will also hear this month about how Jesus called the first apostles. The Lord calls us as well to follow Him. Let us resolve to try to do that better — all of us. That does not mean we have to leave our work and our families behind, but we do need to put our service to Jesus. That should be our top resolution.

In *The Theology of the Hammer*, Habitat for Humanity co-founder Millard Fuller wrote, "The only truly safe investment one can make in life is what is given away." First and foremost, God wants us. That should be our real resolution — to give ourselves to the Lord. May we all do a better job of that in 2018.

God bless you all. It has been a blessing to have served as your pastor these past 12 years, and you will remain both in my heart and in my prayers as I move on.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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



Welcoming Families Home

When we reach out in service, the impact can be more profound than we may first realize. After all, a meal to someone in need can provide nourishment far beyond food. One organization that strives to impact the lives of those in need is Family Promise of Hawaii.

“Many of the families have young children, some have teenage children, sometimes it’s just the mom raising several children,” says Sue Slavish of the people served through Family Promise. “It’s hard to hold enough jobs in Hawaii to make housing affordable in that kind of situation. We’ve had young families with the mom pregnant and the baby born while they’re in our care. We’ve had grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren. We have a whole variety.”

Since it began in 2006, Family Promise of Hawaii has served hundreds of families. With the mission of providing temporary housing for families in need, this ministry gives families the opportunity to live in safety, while working towards goals of finding permanent and stable living conditions. Family Promise serves up to eight families each week, 365 days a year.

Local churches, such as Kailua United Methodist Church and St. John’s By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, provide the physical location for the

families to stay for a week, and other congregations, such as St. Anthony of Padua in Kailua and St. Ann, help to support the families in other ways.

Here at St. Ann, our parishioners are primarily involved with Family Promise through cooking meals and serving as overnight hosts for the families who stay at Kailua United Methodist Church. St. Ann also helps to provide financial support for St. John By-the-Sea’s program, and our annual Giving Tree and St. Ann School’s Jump Rope Marathon both benefit Family Promise.

Families who are accepted into the program arrive at the host site on Sunday evenings, and remain there until the following Sunday morning. Families are often served breakfast in the early morning hours, and vacate the host site by 7 a.m. After a day of work or school, families return to the host site, where they are served dinner, brought by volunteers, and have the opportunity to make bag lunches for the following day. Volunteers often stay to visit with families, provide homework help, or any other assistance they can offer. A volunteer host stays overnight at the host facility to assist in any issues that arise overnight.

“When you volunteer to cook a meal for someone who at this point in time has difficulty



Our Giving Tree ornaments are taken by parishioners, and items listed on back are purchased and donated to Family Promise and other groups.



St. Ann School students participated in a Walk-A-Thon to raise funds that were donated to Family Promise and other charities.

e Through **Family Promise**

purchasing enough food to nourish their family, you're nourishing them, and you're spending time with them, which is a different type of nourishment," Sue says. "I think you're nourishing your own spirit as well, because of the sharing that goes on."

There are also two Family Promise community centers, which include day shelters, one in Kailua and one in Honolulu. Those who do not have somewhere to go during the day can stay at these day shelters, where they can receive various services and help in areas such as résumé building and job searching, finding healthcare services and affordable housing, and even things we can easily take for granted, like access to laundry facilities.

Family Promise works with the families to help them take the steps needed to secure stable housing, and most families transition through Family Promise in three to six months.

"With each family, the staff works with them to set goals that they work on together, so the family is able to become independent again," Sue says. "You see families who have had a successful outcome. Many of them continue in some way or another to give back to the organization, they may help other families in working through issues."

Sue has enjoyed the opportunity to serve



The Walk-A-Thon gave our students an opportunity to contribute to the important work of Family Promise, serving families in transition, helping them find safe and permanent housing. .

alongside people from various denominations and other organizations.

"It runs the gamut of all the different faiths and organizations in the community," she says.

After years of being involved with Family Promise, and currently, serving as the contact person for St. Ann, Sue loves to see the impact that this ministry has in the lives of those it serves.

"It's heartwarming to know that you've protected someone from having to live on the street," Sue says. "We see people who are homeless all the time, on the streets, but families are more hidden. They'll live in their cars, and many have gone from family member to family member for periods of time until the other family members couldn't support them. Knowing that we're able to end that process for them and get them off that treadmill where they're just treading water, that makes everybody feel good."

Sue says that her experiences have also changed the way she understands homelessness.

"I think it's helped me to approach people who are homeless in a slightly more empathetic way," she says. "Those of us who have had an experience with Family Promise have a better feeling of what it's like. It helps us to be a little more compassionate."

Sue encourages her fellow parishioners to consider serving with this ministry.

"It doesn't take a lot," Sue says. "It's a small commitment, but it's helpful and very meaningful to the families. A little bit can have a huge impact. You never know who you might encounter and have a great experience with."

If you would like more information, or to become involved with Family Promise, especially through making meals or serving as an overnight host, please contact Sue Slavish at sueslav@gmail.com.



“IT IS HAPPINESS TO BE ABLE TO COMFORT”

St. Marianne of Molokai

Mother Marianne Cope, Mother of Outcasts was born in Germany on Jan. 23, 1838. A year after her birth, her family moved to Utica, N.Y. In 1862, she entered the novitiate with the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, N.Y. She would go on to help direct the opening of the first two Catholic hospitals in upstate New York.

By 1883, Marianne was Superior General of her congregation. King Kalakaua wrote to 50 orders asking for nurses to minister to the patients with leprosy. Mother Marianne responded and left Syracuse with six sisters, arriving in Hawaii on Nov. 8, 1883. The sisters’ task was to manage Kaka’ako Branch hospital on Oahu. The following year, she was asked to establish Malulani Hospital on Maui.

In 1886, King Kalakaua awarded Mother Marianne the Cross of Compassion of the Royal Order of Kapolani for her care of his people. In 1888, Mother Marianne and the sisters moved to Kalaupapa Peninsula on the Island of Molokai to establish Bishop Home for women and girls. Mother Marianne cared for Fr. Damien as he died of leprosy.

When she arrived at Molokai, Mother Marianne promised that none of her sisters would catch leprosy – and none did, due to the nuns’ strict sanitation modes. Mother Marianne died on Aug. 9, 1918, and was buried on the grounds of the Bishop Home in Kalaupapa. She was canonized on Oct. 21, 2012. We celebrate the feast day of Mother Marianne – *St. Marianne of Molokai* – on Jan. 23.



“For us it is happiness to be able to comfort, in a measure, the poor exiles, and we rejoice that we are unworthy agents of our heavenly Father through whom He deigns to show His great love and Mercy to the sufferers.” – St. Marianne of Molokai, 1884

St. Ann Catholic Schools Week Means Sharing Our Faith

Exciting events — ranging from a fundraiser to an Ethnic Lunch — are already in the planning stages for our St. Ann School celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2018, set for Jan. 28 through Feb. 3. Our students not only will celebrate their Catholic faith here in our parish, but they also will be sharing their faith in community events.

“On Jan. 27 and 28, students will speak after each Mass, talking about Catholic education and why it is important to us, and how great Catholic education is,” says Mandy Brown, St. Ann School Principal.

“We always participate in a community event during Catholic Schools Week, and on Jan. 30 will have chosen to raise money for the American Heart Association with the ‘Jump Rope for Heart’ event,” she says.

On Jan. 31, the students will celebrate Mass for Catholic Schools Week at 8:15 a.m.,

using the liturgy prepared by the National Catholic Education Association.

“We’ll make it our own with our own music, and the whole school will take part,” Mrs. Brown says. “The parents are invited.”

At 10:15 a.m. that same day the students will take part in Authors’ Day, when the students will showcase their written works by going through the editing process before sending their writings to an in-school published collection. During that class time, they will share their work with the others.

In our Early Learning Center, the kindergarten students will take part in the writing process by making a story drawing that will include several written words. The Two, Three, and Four Years Old Early Learning Center students will listen to stories their teachers read, and then illustrate the stories.

“When they have done their

drawings, the youngsters will express what the drawing is,” Mrs. Brown says. “The teachers will write it down.”

That evening, at 6 p.m. our students will celebrate Catholic Schools Week at the mall.

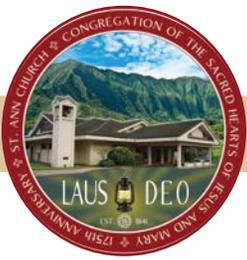
“We will invite all the other Windward Catholic schools to come to the mall and share our talents,” Mrs. Brown says. “Along with this, on the Friday before, we will set up displays at the mall representing our school. We will share at each grade level with pictures and phrases, all showing what Catholic education is, and what our school has to offer. This stays up all week from Friday to Friday.”

On Feb. 1, the students and teachers will celebrate with a special luncheon.

“All will bring in a ‘potluck dish,’” Mrs. Brown says. “We will celebrate our ethnicities, so if a student is Portuguese, he will bring in something

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St. Ann Catholic Schools Week *continued from page 7*

Portuguese to eat. We celebrate our cultures and call it the Ethnic Lunch.”

There is no school Feb. 2, but the teachers will be attending a National Catholic Conference where they will celebrate Mass before breaking out into professional development workshops.

“It’s very important to spotlight Catholic education,” Mrs. Brown says. “If we could, we’d do it each week. It is a national thing, and we all celebrate at the same time. We let people know that we focus on the values of a Catholic education and provide it to young people. This is our contribution to our church and community.”

Before Catholic Schools Week takes place, however, our students will have enjoyed a variety of events in December through Advent

and ending with “a little bit of Christmas,” Mrs. Brown says.

On Dec. 2, our St. Ann students and Religious Education students took part in the Kaneohe Christmas Parade.

“We do it to make the community aware that we’re here,” Mrs. Brown says.

There also was a community Christmas Festival in which our school took part from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At 8:15 a.m. Dec. 4, the school gathered for an Advent prayer service. On Dec. 19, the students presented their Christmas play at both 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. On Dec. 20, the 8:15 a.m. prayer service celebrated the last day before Christmas vacation that ran from Dec. 21 to Jan. 4.

Anyone interested in enrolling a child at St. Ann Schools, which includes the Early Learning Center, may call the school office at 808-247-3092.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 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.