



FAITHFUL FUN FOR OUR *Kupuna* *Bingo, Fellowship, and More on Tap for Parish Seniors*



The parish ministry that plans activities for our seniors — or *kupuna* — is still in the process of selecting an official name. However, one of its most popular events, *Summer Splash Bingo*, made its return on Sunday, June 22, at the One Community Center.

“The problem with the name of the ministry to recruit members has been the perception you had to be a senior to join,” says ministry director Linda Ward. “You don’t have to be a senior to join. We are serving seniors — serving *kupuna*.”

Plans for the bingo events are well underway. Decorating assignments have been made, and food arrangements are in progress.

“We have different events for our seniors,” Linda says. “In November, we had a ‘Medicare 101’ class so older

parishioners could get information. At Christmas, we had a party with games, music, and prizes. But they like bingo!”

The food is always a hit at the bingo events, adding to the festive atmosphere.

“We’ll have sandwiches or pizza, or local food,” Linda says. “We have chips, fruit, and dessert. And we’ll have lemonade punch.”

Each bingo game provides a great opportunity for fellowship, with four to six people seated at each of the 10 tables. The event includes four 15-minute games. Players are limited to one card per game, although they can change cards between games.

“They chat and talk, and at the end of the event they all chip in and help clean up,” Linda says.

Parish funding covers the

continued on back cover

HABEMUS PAPAM: *Pope Leo XIV*

A Faithful Steward for a New Chapter in the Church

The Catholic Church entered a new chapter on May 8 with the election of Pope Leo XIV — formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A. — as the 267th successor to St. Peter. A Chicago native and member of the Augustinian order, Pope Leo XIV is now the first American pope in the Church's history. His election is a powerful reminder of the Church's global reach and the vital role of the Americas in its future.

He follows Pope Francis, who died in April after more than 11 years as our Holy Father. Pope Francis made a lasting mark through his deep concern for the poor and marginalized and his call for a “Church that goes out.” His papacy inspired many, though at times it also stirred controversy, especially in how he pushed boundaries around certain pastoral and doctrinal issues.

Pope Leo XIV brings with him a different tone and style — one that emphasizes continuity with the Church's teachings and a strong sense of doctrinal clarity. While he shares Pope Francis' pastoral heart, Leo XIV is considered more traditional in his approach, and many see his election as a signal of the Church's desire to reaffirm timeless truths in a world that often rejects them.

But don't mistake tradition for rigidity. Pope Leo's background tells a story of missionary zeal and service. He spent years in Peru, walking with the people, building community, and forming future priests. He knows the importance of meeting people where they are, but he also knows that truth

and charity must always go hand in hand.

His choice of the name “Leo” reflects inspiration from Pope Leo XIII, known for his teachings on social justice and the dignity of work. It's a name that signals a pope who wants to lead the Church with wisdom, courage, and deep concern for the common good.

For those of us committed to stewardship as a way of life, there's much to admire in our new Holy Father. From his years of missionary service to his humble leadership style, Pope Leo XIV has lived the call to stewardship — receiving God's gifts gratefully, nurturing them faithfully, and sharing them generously.

In one of his first public messages, he said, “The mission of the Church is Christ's, not ours. We are stewards, not owners.” That simple statement gets to the heart of what stewardship is all about. It's not about control, but trust. It's about placing our time, gifts, and resources in God's hands and using them for His glory.

Pope Leo XIV's emphasis on fidelity, reverence, and responsibility offers a fresh and steady voice for today's Church. He's a reminder that living our faith fully — with truth, charity, and courage — is the best witness we can give in a divided world.

Let's pray for our new Holy Father as he begins this sacred mission. And let's follow his lead — living as good stewards, grounded in the Gospel, and ready to serve the Church and the world with joyful hearts.

A Letter from Our Pastor

Finding *Rest and Renewal* in the Heart of Summer

Dear Parishioners,

Here in Hawai‘i, we are blessed with a climate that often feels like summer year-round. While much of the mainland speaks of the “Dog Days of Summer” and the toll of intense heat, our experience is a bit different. Still, this time of year brings its own rhythm — schools are on break, some of our parish ministries take a well-earned pause, and many families enjoy vacations and a slower pace of life.

This seasonal shift offers us a beautiful opportunity to reflect, renew, and recommit ourselves — both personally and spiritually. Whether you’re spending time with family, traveling, or simply enjoying the beauty of creation around us here on O‘ahu, I encourage you to let this be a time to draw nearer to God and to prepare your heart for the active months that lie ahead.

Even as parish life quiets down a bit, our call to discipleship never takes a vacation. Summer can be a wonderful time to nurture your faith in simple, meaningful ways:

- **Spend time in prayer and reflection:** Find moments of silence — on a morning walk, at the beach, or in your backyard — to listen for God’s voice and presence in your life.
- **Appreciate the gift of creation:** Here in Hawai‘i, we are surrounded by the majesty of God’s handiwork. Take time to give thanks for the natural beauty that points us back to the Creator.



- **Stay rooted in the Eucharist:** Whether you’re at home or traveling, make Mass a central part of your week. Gathering around the Lord’s table reminds us who we are and strengthens us for the journey.

- **Serve in small ways:** Summer’s slower pace may give you the time and space to reach out to someone in need, check in on a neighbor, or volunteer for a ministry that speaks to your heart.

- **Nourish your spirit:** Read Scripture or explore a new spiritual book that helps you grow closer to Christ and understand your faith more deeply.

As we look ahead to the fall — when our religious education programs and many of our parish ministries resume — I invite you to think about how you can be involved in the life of our parish ‘ohana. Whether through prayer, service, or leadership, each of us has a role to play in building up the Body of Christ here at St. John Apostle and Evangelist.

Let this season be more than a break from routine. May it be a time of renewal and grace, preparing us for the work God is calling us to in the months to come.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed summer.

Sincerely,
Fr. Anthony Rapozo
Fr. Anthony Rapozo
Pastor

Church Cleaning Ministry



Ludie Magote, Bernie Grace, and Elaine Gibson



*James and Lorna Davis, Bernie Grace,
Ludie Magote, Elaine Gibson*

To share your time and talents with the Church Cleaning Ministry, contact Ursula Ramos at 808-392-1971.

Keeping the church clean and welcoming is no small task — it's only possible thanks to the dedication of faithful volunteers. The Church Cleaning Ministry is one of several groups that serve quietly and consistently each week, handling many behind-the-scenes duties that ensure our worship space remains beautiful and reverent.

Led by coordinator Ursula Ramos, this ministry is filled with volunteers who not only love our parish and our church, but also cherish each other's company.

"This is God's home," says Ursula. "We are dedicated to keeping His house clean, to make sure that when parishioners come, they find a clean house to start their Adoration, prayer, or to attend Mass. They can feel that it's clean and they are coming home to a clean house."

Ursula oversees five rotating groups of volunteers who clean the three most sacred spaces in the church: the Sacristy, the Sanctuary, and the Chapel. The rest of the worship space is cared for by the Liturgical Environment Ministry. Each cleaning group includes five to eight members who typically meet on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. In about an hour, they sweep, mop, dust, and carefully clean the altars, treating every space and item with reverence.

"The volunteers give their time and talent with no questions asked, and they're so good," Ursula says. "If they can't make it, they try to have somebody else cover for them. They're very dedicated, and they love what they do."

With five crews rotating weekly, each group cleans about once a month. One of the larger groups even rotates internally, so members serve approximately once every other month. The workload is manageable and made easier by the teamwork and joyful spirit of the volunteers.

"It just feels so worth it," says Ursula. "I love cleaning and seeing other people's enjoyment. I do it not only for God, but for the parish and for Father. It makes me feel like I'm doing something for God and for all of us."

When new volunteers sign up, Ursula works with group leaders to determine where help is most needed and assigns accordingly. New members are always welcome! If

Keeps God's House Shining

you can spare just one hour a month to help care for our church and create a clean, welcoming space for parishioners and visitors, the Church Cleaning Ministry would love to have you.

"I love cleaning and seeing other people's enjoyment. I do it not only for God, but for the parish and for Father. It makes me feel like I'm doing something for God and for all of us." — Ursula Ramos, Church Cleaning Ministry coordinator



Ursula Ramos and another group leader, Betty Callejo at the 2024 Ministry Fair



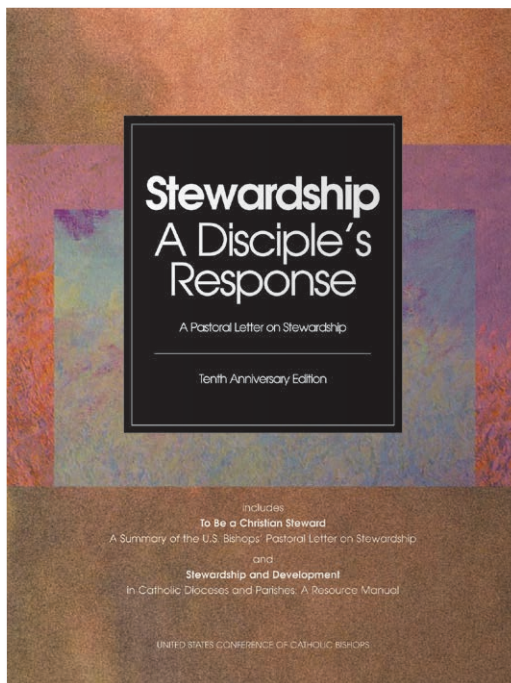
Embracing Stewardship: A Disciple's Response: *A Blueprint for Catholic Life*

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a pastoral letter that would resonate through the years, shaping the way Catholics perceive and practice their faith. Titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, this document serves as a profound blueprint for how Catholics should live stewardship as a way of life and is — in essence — the roadmap for how we live out stewardship at our parish.

At its core, stewardship is not merely a financial concept, but a profound spiritual principle deeply rooted in Catholic teachings. The 1992 pastoral letter seeks to enlighten Catholics on the transformative power of stewardship, inviting them to view their lives through the lens of discipleship and responsibility.

One of the pivotal messages of the document is the recognition that everything we have — our time, talent, and treasure — is a gift from God. Stewardship, as outlined by the USCCB, is the grateful and responsible management of these gifts in a way that reflects our love for God and others. It is a call to live out the Gospel in concrete and intentional ways, not just within the walls of the church but in every aspect of our daily lives.

The pastoral letter emphasizes that stewardship is not an optional aspect of the Christian life but an essential response to God's love. It challenges Catholics to move beyond mere Sunday



worship and integrate their faith into every facet of their existence. In essence, stewardship is presented as a way of life, a continual commitment to recognize and utilize God-given gifts for the betterment of the world.

Furthermore, the document urges Catholics to embrace stewardship with a spirit of generosity, emphasizing the importance of sacrificial giving. This sacrificial aspect goes beyond monetary donations; it encompasses the giving of one's time and talents for the service of others. By doing so, individuals are called to be active participants in building a community that reflects the love and compassion of Christ.

Stewardship is not a one-size-

fits-all concept, and the pastoral letter recognizes the diversity of gifts within the Catholic community. Each person is uniquely endowed with talents, and the document encourages a discernment process to identify and employ these gifts for the common good. In essence, the USCCB provides a framework for fostering a vibrant, engaged, and spiritually rich community by acknowledging and utilizing the varied talents of its members. The pastoral letter challenges Catholics to consider the broader implications of stewardship beyond the local parish. It calls for a heightened awareness of social justice issues, advocating for a commitment to building a

more just and compassionate society. Stewardship, in this context, becomes a catalyst for positive change in the world, encouraging Catholics to be agents of justice and mercy.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a timeless guide for Catholics seeking to deepen their relationship with God through the practice of stewardship. It presents a holistic approach to living out one's faith, challenging individuals to recognize and utilize their God-given gifts in the service of others. By embracing stewardship as a way of life, Catholics can contribute to building a community that reflects the transformative power of God's love in the world.

Nurturing YOUNG STEWARDS AND DISCIPLES:

The Role and Importance of Youth Ministry

As Catholic parents, one of our most significant responsibilities is to instill the values of our faith in our children. We strive to raise them as disciples of Christ, guiding them to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of our Lord. One essential way to achieve this is by actively involving our children in youth ministry programs. These programs not only help our young ones grow in their faith but also instill the principles of stewardship as a way of life.

Youth ministry plays a pivotal role in shaping young minds and hearts. It provides an environment where adolescents and teenagers can explore their faith, deepen their relationship with God, and engage in service to the community. Let's delve into why this involvement is so crucial.

- **Spiritual Formation:** Youth ministry programs create a space for spiritual growth and formation. They offer opportunities for prayer, worship, and reflection, enabling our children to build a strong foundation in their faith.
 - **Faith Community:** These programs help young Catholics build connections with their peers who share their faith. In a world that often pulls young people in various directions, these relationships offer a support system
- **Service and Stewardship:** Youth ministry emphasizes the importance of giving back to the community. By participating in service projects, young Catholics learn the value of stewardship, cultivating a sense of responsibility to care for the world and its people.

Now, let's look at some of the best Catholic youth ministry programs available to parents and their children:

- **Life Teen:** Life Teen is a widely recognized Catholic youth ministry program that engages teenagers in a dynamic way. It combines faith formation, community building, and service, making it a holistic approach to youth ministry.
- **EDGE:** This program is designed for middle school-aged youth and focuses on equipping them with the basics of the Catholic faith. It offers a fun and engaging atmosphere while fostering spiritual growth.
- **Steubenville Youth Conferences:** These conferences bring together thousands of Catholic youths for an intense weekend of worship, teaching, and fellowship. They inspire young Catholics to dive deeper into their faith.



- **Catholic Heart Workcamp:** This program combines mission trips with faith-building experiences. Teens not only learn about their faith but also actively practice it through service projects.
- **NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference):** Held every two years, NCYC is a massive gathering of Catholic youth from across the country. It offers a chance for young Catholics to connect with their faith on a national scale.

Involvement in these youth ministry programs equips our children with the tools they need to become committed disciples of Christ and stewards of God's creation. They inspire a lifelong commitment to their faith, encouraging them to actively live out the Gospel message through acts of love and service.

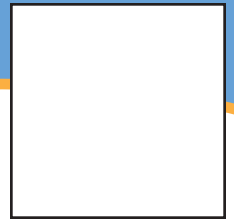
As Catholic parents, let us embrace the opportunity to nurture our young disciples through youth ministry. By doing so, we ensure that they not only live as followers of Christ but also develop a deep understanding of stewardship, setting them on a path to lead a life rooted in faith and love for others.

Youth ministry plays a pivotal role in shaping young minds and hearts. It provides an environment where adolescents and teenagers can explore their faith, deepen their relationship with God, and engage in service to the community.



95-370 Kuahelani Ave.
Mililani, HI 96789

808-623-3332 ext. 100
sjaeinfo@rcchawaii.org
www.stjohnmililani.org
www.facebook.com/saintjohnmililani



FAITHFUL FUN FOR OUR KUPUNA *continued from front cover*

ministry's expenses, so all the events are free for participants.

"The games are free," Linda says. "All we do is free."

Typically, 30 to 40 people attend these social events, which are scheduled in the afternoon to accommodate the seniors' preferred driving hours.

The ministry has also surveyed parish seniors to determine which activities they'd enjoy most.

"We have tried to put them into play," Linda says. "The events are spread out through the year, with one held each quarter. We will have a dance in September, and we're not sure about December. But there will be bingo at the first of the year."



The ministry always welcomes new members to help plan and coordinate these events. For more information, contact Linda at 808-763-8967.