



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Devoted Stewards Sharing Christ with Great Love and Reverence

Some people view serving or volunteering as a chore, and modern society often suggests that our time and effort should always come with a price. But this is not an attitude that a steward takes to heart. A faithful steward gives freely of their time, talent, and treasure, recognizing the many blessings of service. As Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion coordinator Diane Cayetano puts it, “Service is a privilege.”

“Serving as an Extraordinary Minister is a huge privilege,” Diane says. “I feel the reverence. It’s so humbling. Every time I say, ‘This is the Body of Christ,’ I truly mean it. I’m so honored and grateful God gave me this opportunity.”

Diane has been serving as an Extraordinary Minister for nearly 15 years and as coordinator for about a year. The parish is blessed with more than 70 Extraordinary Ministers, which is great because each Mass requires at least eight ministers. Diane loves training new ministers because it’s a way



for her to contribute and share her love of this ministry.

“It’s *ohana* — family,” Diane says. “Everyone knows their role and what to do, which makes my job easy. I don’t have to direct people much because their reverence and respect are already there. It’s gratifying to be the head of this ministry.”

Diane enjoys being around her parish family. She enjoys serving alongside them and celebrating the gift of the Mass with the other

Extraordinary Ministers.

“I look forward to it because I feel a sense of love and reverence,” she says. “Everyone’s demeanor is so respectful. We’re like one big happy family, serving Jesus Christ during Mass.”

Often, Diane will ask people to become an Extraordinary Minister, and they will say they don’t feel worthy. Truly, none of us is. If you are a practicing Catholic, feel free to learn more about this ministry.

continued on back cover

Living Stewardship Through Parish Hospitality Ministries: *A Gift of Time and Talents*

Stewardship is not just a one-time act — it's a way of life for Catholics. It's about recognizing that everything we have comes from God and using our time, talents, and treasure to serve Him and others. One powerful way to live out this calling is by actively participating in parish hospitality ministries, serving as ushers, greeters, and lectors during the Mass. These roles not only enhance the Mass experience but also allow us to share our gifts with our parish community.

Ushers: The Guardians of Order

Ushers play a crucial role in maintaining a sense of order and reverence during the Mass. Their responsibilities go beyond seating parishioners — they are stewards of the worship space. By becoming an usher, you can live out stewardship in the following ways:

Creating a Welcoming Environment: Ushers ensure that parishioners feel welcome and comfortable. Their friendly demeanor sets the tone for the entire congregation and helps newcomers feel at home.

Supporting the Celebrants: Ushers assist the priest and other liturgical ministers, making sure that the Mass flows smoothly. Their dedication contributes to a seamless and uplifting worship experience.

Strengthening Community: Serving as an usher fosters a strong sense of community. It's an opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and deepen your bonds with the Church.

Greeters: The Face of Hospitality

Greeters are often the first point of contact for parishioners and newcomers. Their warm and friendly welcome can make a significant impact. By taking on this role, you can live out stewardship by:

Sharing the Love of Christ: As a greeter, you embody

Christ's love through your warm greetings and friendly demeanor. Your actions can bring joy and comfort to those who enter the Church.

Nurturing a Sense of Belonging: A welcoming environment helps people feel they belong to a caring and loving community. This can lead to more active participation and involvement in parish life.

Lectors: The Proclaimers of the Word

While Lectors are technically liturgical ministers and have a unique and profound responsibility in the Mass, they bring a sense of welcoming to the parish community by bringing the Word of God to life through their readings. Becoming a lector allows you to live out stewardship by:

Sharing the Scriptures: Proclaiming the Word is a sacred duty, and lectors have the privilege of bringing the teachings of Christ to life. This act of service inspires reflection and deepens understanding among the congregation.

Enhancing Spiritual Growth: Lectors deepen their own understanding of Scripture and spiritual growth as they prepare and share God's message. It is a personal journey that enriches the lives of others as well.

Engaging in parish hospitality ministries is a fulfilling way to live out stewardship as a way of life. By sharing your time and talents as ushers, greeters, and lectors, you enhance the Mass experience for yourself, your family, and your fellow parishioners. Your welcoming presence, organizational skills, and passionate proclamation of the Word contribute to a more vibrant and inclusive parish community, fostering spiritual growth and a stronger sense of belonging. Through these ministries, you demonstrate your commitment to living a life of stewardship, embracing the call to serve God and His people.

Pray, Smile, and Make the World a Better Place

Dear Parishioners,

In the Church, we often speak of “new beginnings.” While we usually associate this with spring, the fall season is also a time for renewal. Many aspects of our lives and those of our families have begun or started anew recently.

As I reflect on this season, two thoughts come to mind. First, there is never a wrong time for spiritual renewal. Jesus encourages us to have rich prayer lives. Now is a great time to deepen your personal prayer life and, if possible, that of your family. Consider joining a prayer group or spiritual study at our parish. Scheduling regular personal and family prayer can enrich your lives and create lasting memories for your children.

Second, Jesus teaches us to “love one another.” Studies show that acts of kindness reduce pain, depression, and stress. A simple smile can uplift others and ourselves. Engaging in parish ministries and volunteer activities can make kindness a habit, fulfilling both our talents and interests.

As we embark on these new beginnings, let's focus on stewardship and discipleship. Stewardship is not just about giving money but about sharing our time and talents. Our

parish thrives when each of us actively participates in its life and mission. This season, I encourage you to find ways to serve. Whether it's through prayer groups, volunteering in our various ministries, or helping those in need, your contributions make a difference.

Discipleship calls us to follow Jesus' example in our daily lives. By committing to a life of prayer, kindness, and service, we become true disciples of Christ. This not only transforms our own lives but also brings the light of Christ to those around us.

These two simple actions — praying more and showing kindness — can significantly impact our lives and the lives of those around us. As we strive to be good stewards and faithful disciples, let's support each other in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Fr. Anthony Rapozo

Fr. Anthony Rapozo
Pastor



By committing to a life of prayer, kindness, and service, we become true disciples of Christ. This not only transforms our own lives but also brings the light of Christ to those around us.



Meals Ministry at Men's Shelter Offers Essential

Our parish's service at the Institute for Human Services Sumner Men's Shelter is an example of stewardship in action — it is a profound offering of one's time, talents, and resources to God. St. John Apostle and Evangelist Parish has been involved with serving at the shelter since the 1990s.

"This is an important ministry for this parish because serving people is a vital aspect of ministry for our parish," says Dominique Kekiwi, parish secretary. "It aligns with general orthodox Catholic principles. We can express our love for one another. Our parish follows the scriptural call to 'love one another,' serving the needs of others in the community and our wider world around us."

"We share our strengths and gifts, and we encourage our parishioners to use their gifts in ministries and service," Fr. Anthony adds. "Through our ministry, we are responding to God's love. Serving others is our way to give back to the Lord, and it is guided by our call to be a Spirit-led parish. We also see an impact of community service. Our community outreach and service strengthen bonds, build relationships, enhance the church's visibility, and promote spiritual growth. Our ministry reflects Christ's love because every act of service, performed with love and compassion, reflects Christ's love for the world."

The Men's Shelter was opened in 1986 and was the first homeless shelter on Oahu. Not only does it provide temporary, emergency housing for men, but it also serves



as the hub for the IHS meal program. Our parish's social ministry began serving at the shelter under Mrs. Pearl Bates. Although we stopped serving meals during COVID-19, last year we resumed the ministry of serving meals. Parish volunteers go to the shelter on the third Wednesday of every month to serve a meal, in addition to donating \$1,600 for the purchase of meals once every

quarter at \$400 per quarter.

When several volunteers were asked why it is important for us to serve those outside the parish, their responses were heartfelt and offered examples of their dedication.

"The Lord said, 'What we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, you do unto Me,'" Jeffrey Esposito says. "Serving people, anyone, is serving the Lord Himself. Every person is made in the image and likeness of the Lord and deserves to be treated with that dignity and respect. That is a great honor and privilege."

"It's God's super love for me," says Patrick Guzman. "He loves us so much that He gave us His only Son. The less fortunate are God's children, and what better way than to bring God's light, spread it, and share it."

"Service at IHS is a gentle reminder that we were all created to help serve each other and that in doing so, we serve our Creator," says Kai Li. "Service at IHS can teach us that every person we ever meet has something to teach us and that each one of us has something specific within us that we

"Serving meals to the needy provides a practical and impactful way for parishioners to live out their Christian faith, deepen their relationship with God, develop virtues, build community, and become more committed and compassionate disciples of Christ."

— FR. ANTHONY

ial Assistance and Profound Rewards in Faith

can offer to each other.”

Taking the time and regularly offering one’s talents means that the volunteers call on their strength and desire to help those less fortunate. Jeffrey, Patrick, and Kai offer their thoughts on where these assets are grounded.

“Every time I am offered the opportunity to volunteer, I’m reminded, grateful, and humbled by all that the Lord has blessed me with, and I’m inspired to do more,” Jeffrey says.

“The sheer joy creates opportunities for me,” Patrick says. “The joy in doing God’s work drives me to know more and do more for God. The thirst for learning more and doing more for God only creates more thirst.”

“In the journey of life, many of us might sometimes imagine what our lives would be like if we were somehow more than we are,” Kai says. “In God’s eyes, there is no such thing as being ‘more,’ nor is there any such thing as being less. We’re all His beloved children, loved beyond measure.”

Kai explains that in his early days of volunteering at IHS, observers would say he was fortunate, enjoying good health, a loving family, and a successful professional life with economic security. However, during the pandemic, he suffered debilitating injuries and serious health problems. He suffered the loss of a loving family and losses that led to a severe economic crisis.

“It was at this time that I was again invited to serve at IHS,” Kai says. “This time, I knew that to be alone, jobless, and homeless could be an imminent and brutal reality. The people I was serving were in many ways already more fortunate than I was. I could see their sense of community and feeling of gratitude and aloha. The desire to serve is God-given. It is a gift our Creator has given each one of us. Christ came for us all — serving at IHS can help us to know and understand this viscerally, intuitively, innately, and lovingly. Service to others helps us to be the aloha that we hope to see in the world around us. We were created to serve.”

Our parish’s volunteers at IHS find they can grow closer to Christ and become better disciples.

“Involvement in serving meals to the needy at IHS deepens our parish’s connections to Christ and strengthens the discipleship of its members in the following ways,” Fr. Anthony says.

And as Fr. Anthony notes, this involvement helps us to emulate Jesus’s example and teachings.

“Jesus demonstrated profound care for the poor and marginalized, frequently feeding the hungry and reaching out to the most vulnerable,” he says. “By serving meals, SJAE parishioners actively embody this example, growing closer to Christ by living out His call to love and compassion.

Furthermore, it’s a powerful way of putting our faith into direct action.

“Serving meals provides a tangible way to express and live out our Christian faith, transforming our beliefs into concrete acts of love and compassion,” Fr. Anthony says. “It cultivates empathy and compassion. Through serving those in need, parishioners are confronted with the realities of poverty and hardship, fostering a deeper sense of empathy and compassion. And it helps us to connect with fellow believers — serving meals together fosters a strong sense of community and fellowship among parishioners as they work side by side toward a shared mission of love and service.

“Basically, serving meals to the needy provides a practical and impactful way for parishioners to live out their Christian faith, deepen their relationship with God, develop virtues, build community, and become more committed and compassionate disciples of Christ,” he adds.

There is a constant need for volunteers to help keep this ministry going. Although different parish ministries had signed up to cover a specific Wednesday every month, there has been a call to those outside ministries to come together in groups of five to sign up to cover a month.

Those interested may contact the parish office at 808-623-3332.

Questions and Answers About Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

It's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. This is an annual occurrence – part of the rhythm of parish life at St. John Apostle and Evangelist. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year? The following should help you discern your commitments to our cathedral parish this year.

“My life is already too busy with family and work. I barely have time to relax. How can I possibly share my time and talents with our parish?”

We all have obligations to our families, jobs, schools, and other endeavors. But we also have the same number of hours each day to accomplish these things. The issue is not how much time we have, but how we prioritize. Before you fill out your Commitment Card, reflect on your priorities, and where God fits into your day-to-day life. Remember, living as true stewards of God's gifts involves giving back the first fruits of what He has given to us in thanksgiving, not the “leftovers.”

“I'm happy with my current parish participation. Why do I need to fill out a Commitment Card each year?”

As part of the renewal process, we must consider our current level of participation in parish life. Sometimes, the call to stewardship involves the quality of service along with its quantity. In looking through the opportunities for ministries available at the parish, you may find yourself drawn to a new ministry or new ways to share of your time with God to enrich your prayer life. So, your current level of participation might not change drastically, but how you participate may evolve as you grow in stewardship. Even if you end up participating in the same ministries as the past, turning in a Commitment Card means you have reviewed your present ministries and recommitted.

“I'm not very active in the Church and feel it may be too late to get involved. Why fill out a Commitment Card?”

It's never too late to renew your faith life, and filling out

a Commitment Card is a simple step to immediately return to the life of the parish. Our parish community is not here to judge, but to welcome and nourish you in your faith journey. Begin by checking, “Attend weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation,” and discern additional ways God is calling you.

“I'm reluctant to make a yearly financial pledge in case things change and I'm unable to fulfill it. Should I?”

Your Commitment Card is not a contract; it is a pledge of intentions. Commit based on what you are setting out to do to give back to God and do your best to fulfill that pledge. If your circumstances change, your gift will likely change, as well, but remember to prioritize God first. Nobody will send a bill collector if you can't fulfill your Treasure commitment due to a change in your financial situation. But we must begin our commitment by writing down goals for giving back of our gifts to God.

I've expressed interest in a ministry in the past, but nobody ever followed up with me about it.

We do our best to follow up with everyone who has shown interest, but we are human, and we sometimes fall short. If this has happened in the past, we sincerely apologize and encourage you to renew your interest again on your Commitment Card this year. Every year, we go into the renewal to make sure everyone is contacted, and we will do so again this year.

I don't agree with everything that goes on at our parish and feel when I fill out a Commitment Card, it condones things I disagree with.

You are not making a pledge between yourself and our parish; you are pledging to God. Disagreements occur in life. This is a part of being human, and we respect the opinions of every parishioner. But it is important that each of us fulfills our discipleship of Christ by growing in relationship with Him and utilizing the gifts He has given us to carry out His mission, regardless of disagreements. Beyond helping the parish, filling out a Commitment Card expresses a devotion to spiritual growth and strong belief in the Catholic faith.

Meet Our Knights of Columbus Council 14663

A Group of Faithful Men Engaged in Parish, Community, and the World

If there is an activity or a ministry here at St. John Apostle and Evangelist Parish, one can be sure that there is a Knights of Columbus member involved — the Women's Guild and Children's Choir being the exceptions.

Our St. John Apostle and Evangelist Knights Council 14663 emphasizes service in both our parish and our community.

"We have 167 members and we're in just about each ministry at the parish as ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, and the Parish Pastoral Council," says Patrick Guzman, Grand Knight. "As long as you're a Catholic man over 18, you should be a Knight, if not already. Once you are a Knight, you are a Catholic gentleman. You can be in the Church all your life, so why not be a Knight? Our mission is to lead men closer to their faith at home, in the parish, and in the community."

The council meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in Room One of the OCC. The meetings are kept to one hour, and the topics are kept to charitable giving projects and the help that our council can provide.

There are four categories of activities the Knights follow — Faith, Community, Family, and Life.

Within Faith, the council, among other activities, takes part in parish Encounter Nights. The council also encourages its members to serve daily at church. Our parish icons are celebrated, as well.

"We are engaged in all saints' celebrations, and feast days, and Holy Days of Obligation," Patrick says. "We have shirts coordinated with the liturgical colors, white, red, gold, and green."

"We have novenas, and participate in Rosary events, and



we do monthly cleanup at the Benedictine Monastery at Waialua," he adds. "We help build the monastery's Stations of the Cross."

Family movie nights fall under the Family category, for example, and the Knights' presence at local Planned Parenthood facilities encompasses Life. As Grand Knight, Patrick serves as the state's representative for Sidewalk Advocates for Life, a non-profit that trains members to offer counseling outside abortion providers.

The Community category covers not only local activities, but also extends globally.

"We participate in fundraising to buy 300 wheelchairs for the Philippines, and last year our council raised more than \$15,000," Patrick says.

The Knights of Columbus require its councils to hold 16 events each year, but our council does much more.

"We hold 50 activities each year, based on the 52 Sundays in each year," Patrick says. "It's a standard we try to emulate."

Vocations — whether to marriage or religious life — are encouraged through the weekly family vocation prayer service. Each week, a family takes home a chalice made by the Knights of Columbus and offers prayers and fasting for vocations during that week.

The council is fully supported by Fr. Anthony.

"He is very, very engaged," Patrick says. "He's 110 percent an advocate for us. He goes to each meeting, unless he has other obligations. He has involved the Knights in the Parish Pastoral Council and the Stewardship Council. And it's all for God."

Any male parishioner at least 18 years old wanting information about joining the Knights may go to the parish website at www.stjohnmililani.org and click on the "About Us" tab. Then scroll down to "Councils." Click on "Knights of Columbus," then "Contact" to send an email to Patrick Guzman.



95-370 Kuahelani Ave.
Mililani, HI 96789

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

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion *continued from front cover*

“We’re all unworthy,” Diane says. “But Jesus gives us the chance to serve Him. It’s about being of good character and living a moral and Christian life. That helps me be there for Jesus.”

Diane would encourage everyone to find a way to serve the parish and, more importantly, God. Serving will grow your faith.

“After my husband passed, I said, ‘God, I want to do something,’” Diane says. “He kept me strong through my husband’s illness, and I told Him, ‘Now it’s my turn. I’m going to give myself to You. I want to be the person You

intended me to be.”

Before taking over this ministry, Diane was the usher coordinator. She handed that off because she knew her heart was more in the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Ministry. In many ways, Diane’s example is a hallmark of stewardship — discerning your true talents and passions, and sharing them in the most impactful way. Whether you are called to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion or in another ministry, you will be blessed by sharing your stewardship gifts!

To become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion,
contact Diane Cayetano at di-annz@hawaii.rr.com.