

**Inside This Issue...**

- 2** Stewardship's "Supreme Teacher" *Following Christ's Example*
- 3** August: The Gift of Time
- 4** "I Thank God and All of You for this Opportunity" *"Aloha" to Nick Calzada, St. John's New Director of Liturgy*
- 6** The Faith Journey of St. Genesius
- 7** IHS: Performing the Works of Christ



# Strength for the Journey

*By Fr. Boniface Waema*

It is not usually something people like to think about – for those who have watched the health of a family member or close friend decline due to age or illness, it can be painful to see their suffering. God is still present in these difficult moments of their suffering, ready to generously give hope and strength in the midst of struggle.

Those of us who serve the sick and those challenged by age in the hospitals and homebound see ourselves as beacons of hope to them. In many cases, the simple act of bringing Holy Communion to someone who is too ill or physically weak to attend Mass can give great consolation. These visits also serve to remind the sick and homebound parishioners that their parish family is concerned and cares about them, even when they are not able to be physically present, or give financial contributions, they are still valued, and part of our parish family.

In my visits to these sick members of the parish, I share with them the grace of the sacraments of healing – Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, and by giving them Holy Communion. Whether someone is nearing the end of their life journey, suffering a chronic or terminal illness, or simply unable to leave home to go to confession, I go to seek to bring God's love and mercy to them. I want the sick to appreciate the fact that "there may be an end to curing the sickness, but there is no end to caring."

Administering the sacraments to these members of our community is the most important care we can provide for them as a church at this time. We don't want them to feel abandoned and lose hope. We want them to know that God loves them and is present in their life. And even when we leave that home, God is going to be present and He understands what this person is going through.

Yolanda Morreira adds, "I enjoy taking Jesus to parishioners who are sick and unable to attend Mass. These parishioners become my extended families especially the ones that I



*continued on page 5*

# Stewardship's "Supreme Teacher"

## ..... Following Christ's Example .....

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head – that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face a myriad of difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have

learned, stewardship – the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us – is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads

to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.

A Letter From Our Pastor

# August: The Gift of Time

Dear Parishioners,

As August dawns upon us, I'm shocked by the simple reality that summer is just about over! Yes, some of us are trying to squeeze in that one last vacation or sit outside for just a few more minutes. But for the most part, we've started to transition back into the swing of fall.

How has this happened? Wasn't it just yesterday that the kids were being let out of school and the sun decided to show its beautiful face again?

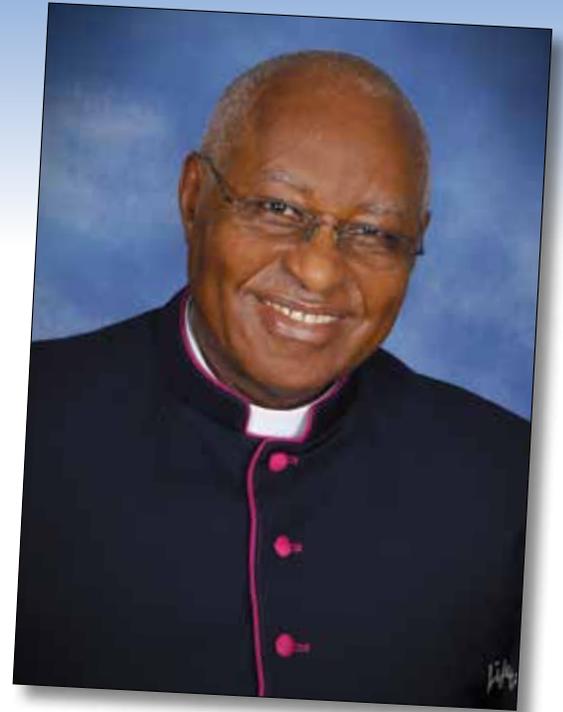
I once heard from a psychologist that time seems to pass more quickly as we get older because we're experiencing fewer "firsts." When we're continually experiencing new things, time tends to stand still while we're living them. After we've repeated those events numerous times, they don't faze us much any more – and before we know it, months have passed, seasons have changed, and it's time to start the annual cycle again.

Yet, we should not allow our time to be something that simply evades

our grasp, trickling through our fingers. After all, time itself – every moment on this earth – is a gift from God. We each have 24 hours today and seven days this week to use however we please. Not one of us gets more time than another.

At the end of this summer, there is cause to look back and see how we chose to use our time these last few months. Did we set aside time to pray? Have we allowed for time to serve others? Did we devote time each day to serve God?

When we assess the use of our time, we must make a spiritual examination – "Have I been a good steward of the time given to me?" Maybe now is a good time to make some changes in our lives and get more involved. There is no better time than right now to seek out ways to serve God, our parish, and those around us. This is what it means to be a good steward!



As the lazy days of summer give way to the busyness of fall, remember to keep God in your hearts, in your minds, and on your tongue as we continue our stewardship journey as a parish family. Please pray for me as I pray for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda  
Pastor

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*At the end of this summer, there is cause to look back and see how we chose to use our time these last few months. Did we set aside time to pray? Have we allowed for time to serve others? Did we devote time each day to serve God?*

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# “I Thank God and All of You”

## “Aloha” to Nick Calzada, St. John’s New Director of Liturgy

What is “liturgy”? Nicholas “Nick” Calzada believes it is one thing to know the definition of “liturgy,” and another to know what it means in action.

“‘Liturgy’ literally means ‘work of the people,’ and it has become another word for the Holy Mass over the years,” Nick says. “With the changes from the Second Vatican Council, people are called upon to become involved with liturgy preparation and participation on a much more personal level, opening up a new outlet of spiritual growth on our journey of faith.”

On July 15, Nick became the Director of Liturgy for the St. John Apostle & Evangelist faith community. He and his wife, Kristine – the daughter of Deacon Romeo Ganibe – are expecting a child and relocated to the area from Winnetka, Calif., to be closer to family.

In California, Nick and Kristine were active members of their parish, St. Joseph the Worker, where Nick served as the Director of Liturgy and Music and as a piano accompanist. Within the past 16 years his experiences within the liturgical ministry include: piano accompanist, music teacher at a catholic school, director of youth & contemporary choirs and director of a traditional adult choir.

“My time at St. Joseph the Worker has been very enriching, and I’ve grown with the parish family since 2007,” Nick says. “I had the opportunity to learn and communicate with a highly multicultural community and minister in most of the Masses and celebrations throughout the year.”



*Nick and Kristine Calzada*



*Nick Calzada, St. John's New Director of Liturgy*

As Director of Music, Nick selected the music for all English Masses according to pastoral, musical and liturgical discretion. He held meetings for enrichment and direction for all liturgical ministers, guiding the Spanish and Vietnamese music leaders to share common ground.

“When music is done well, it brings joy and awareness of God’s presence to prayer and the congregations at Mass,” Nick says. “It was most special to communicate this universal language of music to the multicultural music directors as we brought together music in several languages for multicultural Masses.

As Director of Liturgy, Nick collaborated with the clergy, Mass Coordinators, Environment Team and Liturgical Ministers, getting to know others and supporting each other with their roles in liturgy.

“My goal was to share the fact that involvement in liturgical ministry strengthens one’s faith and empowers prayer with the family of Christ,” Nick says. “Each and every minister has a gift they are committed to sharing in hopes of Christ’s presence living and speaking through them. Being a liturgical minister is another way of building the kingdom of God.”

At St. John Apostle & Evangelist, Nick anticipates using his experience and working with others to help enhance the liturgy and further unify the church family.

“The role of Director of Liturgy requires much planning, interaction and communication, and artistic interpretation within the guidelines of the General

# You for this Opportunity”

## John’s New Director of Liturgy

Instruction of the Roman Missal, the pastor’s discretion and the archdiocese guidelines,” Nick says. “I am grateful and truly blessed to be given this opportunity at St. John and to be a part of the parish community.”

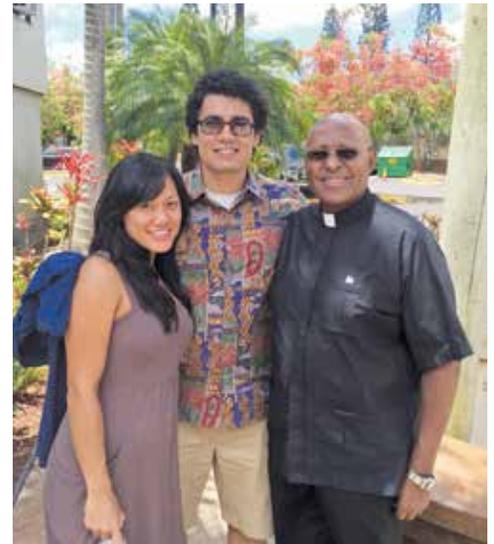
As a faith community, we welcome Nick and Kristine into our church family and look forward to entering into a deeper experience of the liturgy together!

“I thank God and all of you for this opportunity to be your first Director of Liturgy,” Nick says. “I hope that my time here with you will be fruitful and allow us all to bond closer to God and to each other. May we go out and share the good news with the world!”

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*“I thank God and all of you for this opportunity to be your first Director of Liturgy. I hope that my time here with you will be fruitful and allow us all to bond closer to God and to each other. May we go out and share the good news with the world!” – Nick Calzada, Director of Liturgy*

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*Kristine, Nick and Msgr. John*

## Strength for the Journey *continued from front cover*

have been giving communion for more than a few months or years! I have been involved in this ministry since 2006.” These visits also give us an opportunity to encourage and pray with the person who is ill and, in many cases, the relatives or caregivers. Since the caregivers have their own spiritual needs, visitation gives us a chance to attend to them, as well. The caregivers need encouragement and moral support, for the work they do can at times be depressing.

“I enjoy meeting the homebound, their friends and family members,” says ministry member Marietta Kaeo. “We share stories. It’s a form of evangelization. Some of the family members haven’t been to church for a long time and I invite them to come back.”

Sometimes, we have the privilege of praying with someone in his or her final hours and helping that person to prepare for death. Even in situations that aren’t as dire, we often offer comfort and encouragement for whatever the

person will face. Serene Pereira, who has been involved with this ministry for 11 years adds, “I find great joy in bringing Jesus to the homebound. Receiving Jesus is the highlight of their week and they are very appreciative. I have formed a close rapport with most of them.”

The most important thing for me is to give the sacraments and encouragement for this person to face whatever he or she is facing with courage, because Christ is already within and present in that person’s life.

“What a blessing to be able to bring the love of the whole church and personally minister and pray with the sick,” offers ministry member Frank Hing. “It always touches my heart to see how the sick treasure and rely on the Eucharist as the source of their healing and strength in their time of need.”

There is truly no greater gift to a person suffering than this reminder that they are not alone. They are loved by their parish family, and even more importantly, by their heavenly Father.

*If you are interested in sharing and participating in this important ministry of serving the sick and homebound with other team members, please contact Fr. Boniface Waema at 808-623-3332, ext. 104. If you have a friend or relative who is homebound or in the hospital, but would like to receive Holy Communion or other sacraments, please contact the parish office at 808-623-3332, ext. 100.*

# The Faith Journey of St. Genesius

Being a performer and a comedian may sound like a fun way to make a living.

St. Genesius, an outstanding actor, playwright and comedian in late Imperial Rome, certainly did have some fun for a while. But his career and life came to an abrupt end when his work ultimately led him to Christ.

Genesius was a comedian of some renown, but in the fourth century, Christians were often discouraged from becoming actors because ancient Roman comedy was highly sexual, crude and offensive.

In the year 303, Emperor Diocletian launched what would be the last great Roman persecution against the Christian Church. So, Genesius used the persecution as an opportunity to write a comedy about Christianity. He thought it might attract the attention of the Emperor, increase his fame, and make him some money in the process.

Genesius approached leaders of the Christian community in Rome and presented himself as a catechumen seeking Baptism. He was then invited into a period of instruction in the faith, in order to learn the beliefs of the Christians. He was particularly taken by the idea of Baptism. But at the time, he had no plans to convert to the faith – it was all just a part of his plan to research new material to use for his comedy.

But a strange thing happened to Genesius as he began to work on his play, which was to be a comedy on Baptism. As Genesius began teaching the other actors about Baptism, he began to believe, and a desire to be baptized grew within his heart.

The opening night of the play was a great success, with Emperor Diocletian in attendance. But at some

point during the play, the Holy Spirit touched Genesius. He was no longer acting.

“You fools, I wish to die a Christian,” Genesius said. When the other actors asked him why, he said, “All my life I have been a fugitive, and only today have I found God.”

Everyone, especially Emperor Diocletian, laughed as Genesius spoke. Genesius, standing in a pulpit designed to look like the goddess Venus, began to preach to the audience. He told the crowd how he once hated Christians and enjoyed insulting them. He told the crowd how he deserted his own family as a child because they were Christians.

From there, Genesius addressed Diocletian, stating that he wrote the play to mock Christians, but had been converted on the spot during the course of the play, by the power of Holy Spirit. “I now know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God, the Light, the Truth and the Mercy of all who have received His gift of Baptism,” Genesius said. “O great Emperor, believe in these mysteries! I will teach you, and you will know the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God.”

Diocletian was furious and stopped the play, having the troupe arrested and beaten, while Genesius was condemned to torture. Through all of his sufferings, he continued to confess that Jesus was God. When this failed to break his spirit, Diocletian ordered Genesius be beheaded. His final words were, “Our Lord Jesus Christ is God and we shall have life in His name.”

St. Genesius is the patron of comedians and actors. His feast day is Aug. 25.



# IHS: Performing the Works of Christ

For Catholics, the letters “IHS” are significant in a number of interesting ways. The three letters can be seen on altar cloths, in medieval paintings, and even on Pope Francis’ papal coat of arms. The most common explanation places these letters as the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek. Another popular explanation is that the letters are an acronym for the words *In Hoc Signo*, which starts the Latin phrase that translates to “In this sign you will conquer.”

Here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, however, the letters serve as an acronym for a much more humble, yet essential cause – the Institute of Human Services. This is the only official shelter for the State of Hawaii and was founded to help house and feed the hungry members on Oahu. The IHS serves meals to the hungry three times a day, seven days a week.

Paul Thames has been a loyal member to the ministry, serving for close to 30 years alongside his son, Ron, who has served with him for the last 20 years.

“I started out after I retired,” Paul says. “And I wanted to give back to the community. My wife was involved with Meals on Wheels, so I thought I’d help with something similar.”

Paul says he has a deep connection with the corporal works of mercy, having been raised in the midst of the Great Depression.

“I grew up during the 1930s, so feeding the homeless fits in with the fact that at times, we couldn’t eat anything growing up,” he says. “That time of my life taught me that sharing things is important. So when I see the serving line and the appreciation on their faces, to see their smiles as they say, ‘Thank you very much,’ it’s truly a blessing.”

For a while now, Paul and his son have had a routine with IHS. On the second Thursday of each month, they plan the meal, buy the food and deliver to IHS. Then they return to IHS to monitor the distribution on Friday. Outreach provides a different group from St. John to help with the serving each month.

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*“[My son, Ron, and I are] both doing something we’re passionate about, because I instilled in him since he was young an idea of helping the less fortunate. It’s not too much work, either. The parish provides a budget for the program and we try to stay within it.” – Paul Thames*



# IHS: Performing the Works of Christ *continued from page 7*

“We’re both doing something we’re passionate about, because I instilled in him since he was young an idea of helping the less fortunate,” Paul says. “It’s not too much work, either. The parish provides a budget for the program and we try to stay within it. Many years ago the budget was small but has had to increase as prices have increased and to allow for a more varied menu of food.”

Paul points out that the more you help other people, the more blessed you become.

“The people out there are in awe, and it can be a really emotional event,” he says. “For instance, once, Ron was out in front passing out the meals, and he saw a person he knew many years ago coming through the line.

It moved him to talk to a social worker at IHS. ‘He kind of wanders off and is gone for a week or two and then comes back,’ they said. So, Ron decided to put him up in his home for a while. It turns out that there’s more to the man’s story. He’s actually partially blind and has some other personal struggles, and now he has lived several months with my son. Another person saw their cousin in the line and didn’t even know he was in need.”

These actions serve as the very basis of Christianity. To serve one another as Christ has served us is what each and every one of us is called to do. For more information about serving with Catholic Charities and other outreach programs, please contact Pearl Bates at 808-294-3045.

