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Ministries Working Together to Reveal the Love Story of the Mass

Every week when we come to Mass, we are witnessing a love story – one that should surround us from the moment we walk in, and stay with us even after we’re gone.

“In the middle of the church behind the altar is a giant crucifix, reminding us that that’s how much He loves us,” says Nick Calzada, St. John’s Director of Liturgy. “In the Mass, we are nourished by His holy Word and His very being in the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist. He takes care of us. He takes care of our spiritual well-being.”

As Nick explains, the parish clergy and liturgical ministries are in the midst of an effort to increase the feeling of reverence experienced during worship at St. John. Their hope is that in doing so, that feeling will continue beyond the doors of the church.

“We want to help people understand that what happens in the liturgy needs to happen in our homes and in the world,” he says. “It needs to continue. That love story should be inspiring to people to go home and continue that – not to have a change of mood once they’re in the car, but to be so moved to go out and show that to the world.”

Doing so means creating a powerful experience of the liturgy that gets people excited about coming to Mass. Nick says the parish is working together with all the elements of the liturgy and worship ministries to help create a more cohesive experience, from the way the readings are delivered to the look of the altar itself.

“It’s a matter of experience and having artistic ideas to what’s going to best highlight the prayer and the moment within the Mass,” Nick says. “If the lector doesn’t have that vision of what’s happening during this time, or asking what the message is that God is trying to deliver through me, that’s going to make a much different statement than just going through the motions. Musicians love



continued on page 6

Results of the 2015 Stewardship Renewal

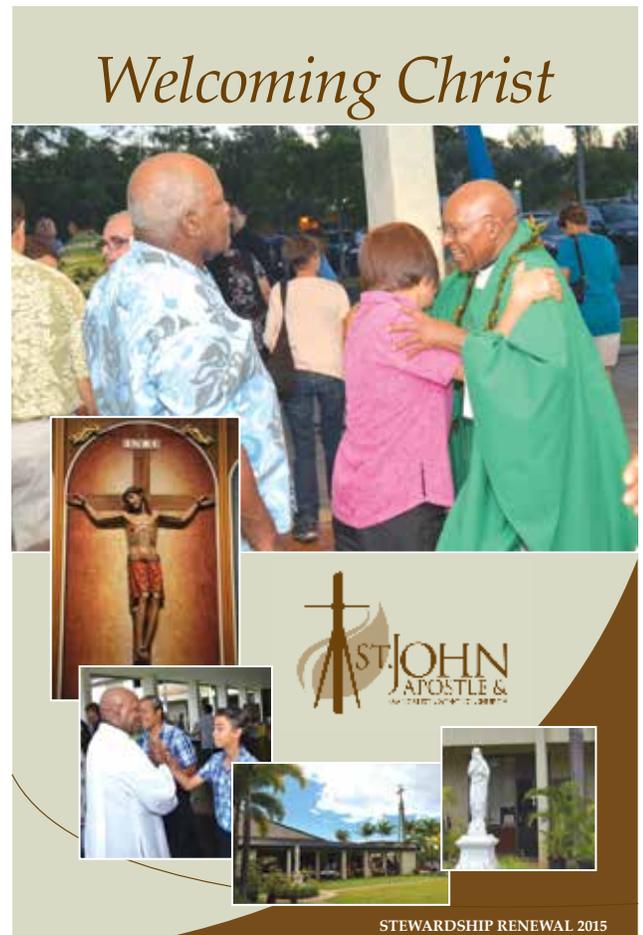
Our parish leadership at St. John Apostle & Evangelist recently conducted the 2015 Stewardship Renewal. The results certainly demonstrate that commitment to prayer, ministry and the Catholic faith are of continually increasing importance to our parish community.

As of press time of this newsletter, 27 percent of active households took part in the Stewardship Renewal by filling out and returning a commitment card.

Several of the notable results from the 2015 Stewardship Renewal include the following:

- ❖ Prayer Commitments — or commitments to Stewardship of Time — totaling 1,313 were made.
 - ❖ The top five “Time” commitments were:
 - “Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days,” 281 commitments
 - “Spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 224 commitments
 - “Pray the Rosary at least weekly,” 174 commitments
 - “Pray together with my loved ones,” 140 commitments
 - “Read the Bible for at least one hour a week,” 133 commitments
- ❖ Ministry Commitments — or commitments to Stewardship of Talent — totaling 978 were made during the Stewardship Renewal, with 208 of these being new “interested in joining” commitments.
 - ❖ The top five “Talent” commitments were:
 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 78 commitments
 - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC), 65 commitments
 - St. John Apostle & Evangelist Women’s Guild, 50 commitments
 - St. John Apostle & Evangelist Knights of Columbus Council 14663, 44 commitments
 - Religious Education Ministry, 44 commitments
- ❖ A total of 262 households made “Stewardship of Treasure” commitments. The average annual pledge was \$1,908.
 - There were 193 weekly offertory pledges.
 - There were 59 monthly offertory pledges.

Indeed, these statistics point to an increasingly active commitment to stewardship here within our St. John Apostle & Evangelist community. And while the spiritual benefits of stewardship can never be quantified, this annual commitment on behalf of our parishioners helps to ensure that St. John Apostle & Evangelist remains a vital and faith-filled parish community. We thank all who participate in the life of our parish!



A Letter From Our Pastor

Make Prayer and Hospitality Pillars of Your Lenten Journey

Dear Parishioners,

In the coming weeks, we will conclude our Lenten observance, experience Holy Week, and celebrate the joy of Easter. Of course, I hope that you have made some effort to make this Lenten season special and significant, but if you have not, it is never too late to accomplish that goal.

With thoughts of Lent, Easter and the Year of Mercy at the top of my mind, I offer a couple suggestions to help carry you to the end of your Lenten journey.

As you know, prayer is foundational to stewardship, as it is one of the Four Pillars of a stewardship parish — along with hospitality, formation and service. With this in mind, here are some suggestions on how you might make your prayers even more consequential.

Pick someone to pray for, perhaps even someone you don't get along with. Just pray for them. You do not have to tell them you are praying for them, but the exercise is good for you, and for them, as well. If possible, find a time this month to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, especially if this is something you do not normally do. Pray every morning shortly after you get up, and again each evening before you turn in. It does not have to be a long prayer, but it does need to be done consistently.

In terms of the pillar of hospitality, there is also much we

can do in this area, both as a parish and as individuals and families. Here is a suggestion that involves hospitality — one that is also connected to gratitude and even the Year of Mercy. Many of us spend time at a computer. It is a way for us to stay connected to those who are close to us, and to the world around us. Why not begin and end each week emailing someone a note of thanksgiving? Again, it does not have to be lengthy, but when we think about it, each of our lives is filled with people to whom we should be grateful.

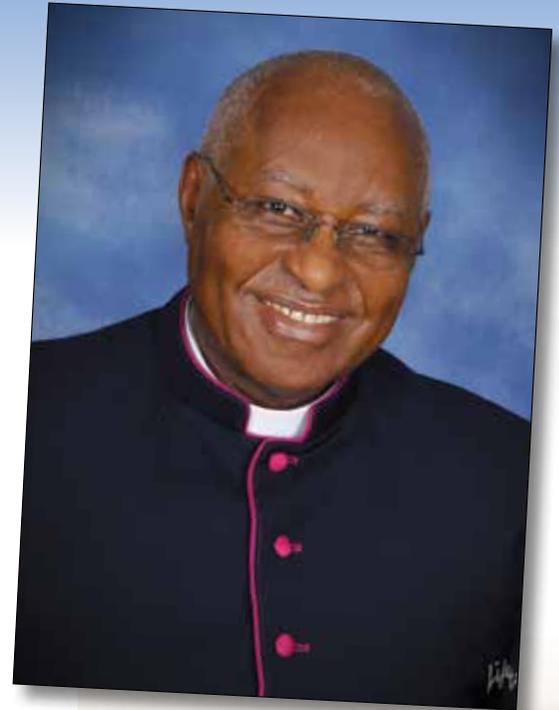
Just send that someone a note thanking them for something specifically, or in general. By starting and ending each week like that, our minds are in the right place for prayer and for having the attitude that Christ asks us to have.

I thank you for all you do, for our parish, for the Church, for one another, and for me personally. I am blessed. Like most, I may not express it often enough. I pray for you, and I ask you to pray for me during this holy time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor



Social Ministry in

“The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” – Misericordiae Vultus, 10

The Year of Mercy is a great time to reflect on the outreach actions of St. John Apostle & Evangelist parish. Through spirituality, generosity and love, our church has a history of seeking and helping our brothers and sisters in Mililani, on Oahu and in Molokai. This difference is felt and appreciated – each and every day – by the many we have helped.

Paul and Ron Thames have made a difference in the lives of the homeless. For years, they have worked with the Institute for Human Services (IHS) and they lead St. John’s team, which feeds the homeless each month. In the last six months, St. John’s has donated \$3,366 of food and had 48 volunteers serving the hungry at IHS. Recently, however, this interaction became personal when Ron recognized a homeless man as someone he had known many years ago. Ron was shocked to see him at the homeless shelter and talked to him about his life. By the end of the night, they were both in tears and Ron was committed to helping his friend. Ron worked with IHS caseworkers and took his friend into his home. After a few months of staying at Ron’s home, one day he had to call an ambulance to take his friend to Wahiawa General Hospital, where his friend was in Intensive Care for a few weeks. While Ron’s friend was getting needed medical help, Ron set about trying to find the man’s family, and he successfully contacted the man’s son, daughter and friends, who came to the hospital. The family had no idea what had happened to their dad. The son was excited to be reunited with his father and took him in when he left the hospital. Ron deflects the praise by noting that it is his dad who always had a heart for the homeless and who was the role model in how we live our lives in service to God by service to others. Thanks to the Thames, a once-



Ron and Paul Thames at IHS.

homeless 70-year-old man is recovering physically and mentally within the loving arms of his ohana.

Paul and Ron are passionate about the work they do on behalf of the homeless on Oahu. If you were to ask them to share their dream for their ministry, they would tell you that “we *can* do more.” With more storage space and refrigeration, we could expand our support to the homeless. Ron’s dream is that St. John’s could obtain support from local businesses that would provide excess items to the church, which could then be distributed to the homeless and hungry.

In this Year of Mercy, Ron’s dream is that

we dream bigger and deliver more to the homeless and hungry in our area.

Bill Castro and the Hui O Laulima – Group of Helping Hands – Ministry have made a difference in the lives of many on Molokai. In 2007, the Molokai Ranch and other businesses closed, leaving many without jobs. Bishop Larry Silva sent a memorandum to all parishes in the Diocese on May 1, 2008, requesting that parishes assist the people of Molokai, especially those that lost their jobs due to the Ranch closure. The Hui O Laulima was established on Aug. 4, 2008, in response to the bishop’s letter. Iwie Tamashiro of the Diocesan Office for Social Ministries and Bill Castro, Chair of the Hui, flew to Molokai to see what kind of assistance the parish could provide. They met with Janice “Aunty Jan” Pele, a Kupuna and manager of the Maunaloa Food Bank.

“Aunty Jan asked us to sit with her around a small table in her humble office and discuss what was needed,” Bill says. “She provided us with all that she could – Sanka coffee, Saloon Pilot crackers and some strawberry jam. She seemed to be such a warm and caring person. We could see how much she loved the people of her community and wanted to help

the Year of Mercy

them. She stated that the greatest need in the community was food for the families and Kupuna. She really wanted to have a Thanksgiving celebration for the community to bring it together since the closing of the Ranch left so many hurting.

“We also discussed the possibility of sending toys for Christmas,” he continues. “Aunty Jan also told us that her greatest wish was to open a store to provide the poor with free clothing and other small items. As we spoke, we decided that St. John’s would take the lead and provide food for the families at Thanksgiving. Aunty Jan thanked us with hugs and tears in her eyes.”

Other parishes assisted the Hui in collecting a whole container of food that was quickly shipped to Molokai. And a week before Thanksgiving, there was enough food to fill 150 boxes and 150 certificates for turkeys from the local general store.

“While the boxes of food were distributed, people were smiling, some sobbing with happiness and gratefulness,” Bill says. “After the boxes of food were passed out, Aunty Jan, with tears in her eyes, came up, hugged me and stated, ‘Many people had visited here and promised to assist the community, but you are the only ones who came back and fulfilled your promise.’ This left me with an overwhelming feeling of happiness and my eyes began to swell up with tears. What a great feeling to know that we had accomplished such a good deed for Molokai. The Hui also followed up by providing toys for the children of Molokai the week before Christmas.”

Now, nine years later, St. John’s support to Molokai – St. Damien’s Parish and Aunty Jan’s House of Blessings – continues. Molokai’s population of 7,200 has many needs. Currently, St. John’s provides food for the sunshine Backpack Program, which sends food via children’s backpacks twice a month. In this last

year, St. John’s has provided 1,978 pounds of food to Molokai. But St. John’s also provides other needed items – cleaning supplies, clothing, and slippers. Aunty Jan recently relayed that the children cannot eat in the school cafeteria without slippers, and many do not have slippers. With the slippers St. John’s provided, they have “staged” the slippers outside the cafeteria door so that those who need to borrow slippers in order to eat can do so and then return them for others to use.

At Thanksgiving, St. John’s donates \$3,000 – 52 gift certificates – so that those who cannot afford a Thanksgiving meal can buy what is needed. The certificates are designated for the three stores on Molokai – Friendly’s Market, Misaki’s and Maunaloa General. And, as many parishioners know, St. John’s is the major supporter of the St. Damien’s Toyland. In the last year, we provided 250 toys and \$1,000 in support of Molokai families. As Aunty Jan recently said, “I want St. John’s to know that they are such a blessing for our community.”

But what of the future? St. John’s, the Diocese Office of Social Ministry, and the Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) are working with St. Damien’s and Aunty Jan to assess what the future holds and how we can support. St. Damien’s continues to work very hard to support the ever-growing needs of their community. Aunty Jan and her organization have obtained status as a non-profit organization and are competing for grants and financial support. Both organizations are assessing current needs and prioritizing future requirements. St. John’s generous parishioners continue to support.

“I want our community to continue, but I want it to be self-sufficient,” Aunty Jan says of her vision for the future. “We are working on getting grants and we do not want to continue to ask you for your help. I want to educate our younger generation that it isn’t about receiving, it is also about giving.”

Through IHS and the Hui O Lailima, St. John’s serves those on Oahu and Molokai. But there is still more. Pearl Bates is the St. John’s staff member responsible for Local Outreach. The Local Outreach Office provides emergency food assistance to those in need in our parish and in the Mililani area, and in the last six months provided



Aunty Jan, her daughters, St. John Social Ministry volunteers, and HACBED staff

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Social Ministry in the Year of Mercy *continued from page 5*

\$4,952 of food to 121 families. St. John's also provides \$1782 emergency financial assistance to those who need a helping hand. Finally, St. John's wants to ensure children who desire education at St. John's Preschool get support and in the last six months, provided \$3800 tuition assistance for those students who applied and qualified for this assistance. What is Pearl's vision? Her wish would be to have additional storage space, to include refrigeration, to provide more food for those who come to her for help. But even without extra space, she is one that makes things happen with a full calendar of events such as the Prison Easter Drive, Easter Food Baskets, School Supply Drive, Holiday Food and Fund Drive, Christmas Angel Tree, and Hygiene Kits for the homeless just to name a few. Pearl



Kalaupapa, taken from topside

notes that it is very easy to articulate the Local Outreach goal.

"Our vision is to always recognize the opportunities God gives us to reach out to others while serving them with compassion, and giving them hope for the future in His name," Pearl says.

Is there more to do? Always. The need is great, but so is the love of St. John's for the people of their parish, Mililani, and Hawaii. St. John's parishioners have demonstrated their commitment to help all.

Thank you, St. John's, for recognizing and bearing the "*weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters.*" May the Year of Mercy "*instill in us the courage to look to the future with hope.*"



Deacon Mike with Bill picking up a shipment of food

Ministries Working Together to Reveal the Love Story of the Mass

continued from front cover

what they do, and if they're able to see even beyond the music to see the words that they're singing, there's this love story right in from of them. They fall in love with what they're singing to God."

Nick says part of setting this tone is also about creating an atmosphere of love – one that is palpable from the moment a visitor sets foot inside the church.

"Love is in the air," he says. "Love is contagious. We're working with the Environment Ministry as they have an opportunity to create an atmosphere that reminds us that not only is this a sacred space, but there is great love in this room. Not only the love between our brothers and sisters, but greater love between God and us coming together."

To accomplish all of this, Nick says it's important that each ministry work together as parts of a larger team, like an orchestra filled with accomplished musicians who each know their part well.

"Moving forward, it's really going to take that awareness of everyone to all be aware of where they're at, to do their part to make it show," he says. "If you love someone, you're going to show them. You don't just say 'I love you' and have an understanding that you love each other. Love has to be shown. Love surprises us. I think when people experience that at Mass, they're also going to experience that at home."

If you would like to be part of the exciting things happening with the liturgical ministries at St. John, please contact Nick Calzada at ncalzada@rcchawaii.org.

St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church

Financial Report for Period Ending December 31, 2015

	Previous Fiscal Year	PERIOD ENDING		Current Fiscal Year
	Actual 7/1/2014-6/30/2015	July - December 2015 Actual	Budget	Budget 7/1/2015-6/30/2016
RECEIPTS				
Sunday Collection	782,772	417,415	397,550	795,100
Immaculate Conception	3,837	3,411	3,820	3,820
Christmas	39,335	29,689	26,213	39,320
Easter	32,718	28	-	32,720
BEMO	75,040	36,415	37,500	75,000
Sacramental Offerings	12,730	3,060	9,000	16,000
Candle Sales	27,296	14,117	13,350	26,700
Book Sales	5,430	650	3,000	6,000
Religious Education Fees	6,845	8,585	3,475	6,950
Retreat & Workshop Fees Inc Youth Activities	7,204	3,479	3,300	6,600
Occasional/Other Donations	23,583	18,017	12,446	22,791
Fundraising Revenue Subject to GET	1,125	2,412	3,000	6,000
Interest Income	6,191	3,375	3,050	6,100
WGH Rebate	25,834	2,684	6,300	12,600
Grant Funds (Also See TR Donations Below)	4,000	-	-	-
Stewardship Development Donations	35,232	-	20,000	40,000
Lay Associations: W/Guild, Prayer Grp., etc.		2,981		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,089,172	546,318	542,004	1,095,701
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Operations	443,865	199,620	218,597	437,860
Diocesan Assessment	124,932	66,672	64,864	129,727
Rectory	45,046	19,450	26,507	53,014
Property/Facilities	86,735	51,085	49,452	98,907
Liturgy	62,282	47,239	57,232	114,464
Religious Education (K - 8) Inc Prayer Groups	119,090	66,556	52,429	104,857
Confirmation	15,402	1,316	4,975	9,950
RCIA	1,797	440	970	1,939
Social Ministries Inc Hui	1,959	528	1,360	2,720
Outreach include Weinberg	45,390	20,756	20,073	40,146
Pro-Life Ministry	2,891	1,569	1,710	3,420
Youth Ministry	26,235	7,611	15,490	30,979
Faith Formation	22,511	3,629	2,500	5,000
Stewardship Development	67,993	26,531	31,359	62,718
Lay Associations: W/Guild, Prayer Grp., etc.		450		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	1,066,129	513,453	547,517	1,095,701
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	23,043	32,865	(5,513)	-
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED DONATIONS				
Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation: With Grateful Hearts Grant	4,000			
Stewardship Development	35,232	20,252		
Building Fund Collection (Pre/Future Construction)	35,309	6,037		-
Subtotal of Current Year Donations	74,541	26,289		
Less: Expenses (Net Assets Released to Oper.)	(40,034)			
TEMP. RESTRICTED DONATIONS - NET	34,507	26,289		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	57,550	59,154		

In fulfillment of our stewardship virtues of accountability and transparency, the Parish Finance Council presents the above Year to Date Report

Notes:

- 1.) Temporarily restricted donations include grants from Weinberg, Building Funds and With Grateful Hearts. Accounting guidelines encourage nonprofits to recognize donations when pledged/received and to release restrictions when expenses are incurred.
- 2.) Change in Net Assets does not include non-cash income - change in value in Land & Building.
- 3.) Please direct questions about this report to the Finance Council.

Annual Report of Special/Second Collections

January 2015 - December 2015

Augustine Educational Foundation	\$ 1,366.50
Black & Indian Mission	570.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	2,082.50
Catholic Charities Hawaii	4,018.50
Catholic Communication Campaign	1,649.62
Catholic Relief Services	3,183.28
Catholic University of America	1,848.00
Church in Latin America	1,454.00
Holy Father (Peter's Pence)	1,878.50
Holy Land	5,156.07
Holy Thursday - Operation Rice Bowl	8,986.66
Retirement Fund for Religious	4,422.50
Seminarian Education Fund (Diocesan Vocations Office)	6,254.27
World Mission Sunday (Propagation of the Faith)	2,111.50
Ikot Ekpene Diocese, Nigeria (St. Co'timbanus Secondary School, Ikwen)	11,000.00
Mission Appeal - Diocese of Kumbo, Cameroon	17,132.30
	<hr/>
	\$71,114.20



Year of Mercy

Sheltering the Homeless

"The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2447). Throughout the Holy Year of Mercy, each month a work of mercy will be highlighted for both reflection and action.

Sheltering the homeless, a corporal work of mercy, is an act of love to help others find shelter and to assist in preserving buildings used for housing. Accepting others into your home when visiting or in times of need, as well as taking care of our homes through maintenance and cleaning are ways to practice this work of mercy. From both the Gospel (Matthew 25:40) and the Rule of St. Benedict (53.1) we remember, "Let all guests who arrive be treated like Christ, for He is going to say, 'I came as a guest, and you received me.'"

@ Home

- Invite others into your home in times of fire, floods or other disaster
- Find out where homeless shelters are in our community – then support or volunteer at one!
- Help take care of your house by dusting the furniture, making the beds, cleaning the floors, and cutting the grass
- Encourage elected leaders to advocate for the homeless and to support fair housing and low-income housing issues
- Go on a mission trip and help maintain existing homes and keep those in need in their homes
- Become a foster family
- Send a care package with special treats to an orphanage
- Sponsor a child through an appropriate agency
- Educate ourselves on the causes of homelessness
- Make a conscious effort to see each homeless person as a human being worthy of dignity and respect
- Look around our homes and be grateful for what we have
- Clear the clutter from our homes and donate usable items for someone else's home – have a garage sale!
- Volunteer to build a home through Habitat for Humanity or a similar program
- Support appropriate immigration and refugee settlement initiatives
- Help neighbors, especially the elderly, to care for their homes and do repairs
- Assemble and keep "Blessing Bags" in your car or have available restaurant coupons to give to a homeless person at the end of the freeway exit
- Send a card or go personally welcome a new neighbor
- Let your home (with parental permissions) be a welcome place for your child's friends who would otherwise go home to their empty houses