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## Serving Our Lord in Little Ways The Laundry Ministry

**W**hen it comes to stewardship, sometimes we struggle with feelings of inadequacy – feeling that we don't have the time or means to give in 'great' ways like others. Yet, like the widow who gave her last coin (Mark 12:43-44), our Lord cares less about the actual amount or act of service, and more about the heart that gives it.

Parishioner Herminia "Hermie" Madayag describes her own offering to the Lord as "nothing spectacular." Several years ago while in the sacristy, Hermie noticed that the priests' vestments were in disarray, many of them also needing cleaning. Seeing a need that she could fill, Hermie began her simple service of washing, pressing and organizing the clergy's chasubles and stoles.

"I do it with pleasure," Hermie says. "I feel good and blessed knowing that I am doing this simple thing for God. It is just a small way that I can give Him back something."

Before beginning her service, parish priests were expected to each care for their own vestments – yet, with all of their other important duties and responsibilities, Hermie views her ministry as a little way to thank them for their loving service to our community. It also helps keep our priests presentable as they represent Christ to His congregation.

"It's important that our priests are presentable for Mass," Hermie says. "The priests are usually hugged by parishioners following Mass – we want the priests' vestments to have a "clean" scent."

With years of back disability stemming from a condition called Degenerative Disc Disease, Hermie explains that she has been quite limited in the types of movement and service she can offer. Because of these restrictions, the Laundry Ministry has enabled Hermie



*Parishioner Hermie Madayag shares that she "feels good" as she offers her simple service of washing the clergy's chasubles and stoles.*

*continued on page 5*

## Stewardship

# Don't Take a Vacation From Stewardship This Summer

Everyone deserves a vacation.

After nine grueling months of school, kids get to enjoy the summer to relax and regroup before beginning a new grade. Employees, after diligently working long hours and dealing with stressful situations, deserve time away from the office to enjoy their favorite getaway. And of course, holidays like Easter and Christmas offer us the opportunity to slow down, share time with family and friends, and celebrate our faith more fully.

No one would argue that we need to mentally refresh our minds and bodies from time to time so that we can come back rejuvenated and ready to do our best.

Taking a break from some things, however, is not a possibility.

Take stewardship, for example. Imagine saying to yourself, "Well, this month I think I will not pray, not share any of my talents with anyone in need, and I will hoard my treasure." What would doing this accomplish? You certainly wouldn't feel refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to be at your best. Instead, feelings of greed, selfishness and spiritual unrest may occur. Stepping back from being a good steward just doesn't make sense.

So, now that summer has arrived in full force and our leisure time each day has increased, how can we remain good stewards?

It is likely that the regimented opportunities available during the school year are no longer available. Youth ministry and parish religious education formation may also be on summer break.

So, where do you turn? How can you keep your faith alive?

First and foremost, don't stop praying. The slow-paced days of summer are a perfect time to quiet ourselves for a few moments and try to reconnect with God. Why not take a moment of your free time each day to read the Gospel or a spiritual reflection while lounging in a hammock?

Or, if you enjoy writing, keep a summer spiritual journal and write in it somewhere peaceful like in your backyard at dusk.

Maybe, if you like to read, you could brush up on your favorite saint while on a road trip.

Or, if you have never given it a chance, why not pick up a rosary and say one decade each day until it becomes natural to say the whole thing?

Next, try to participate in an outreach program over the summer. Think of the life of Christ – everything He did on Earth was an act of service. Now, think of the gifts God has bestowed on you. He wants you to share them with others like He did, and summer gives us the time to do just that.

If you like working with kids, you can volunteer at the Vacation Bible School by helping to decorate, organize or being a team leader for the younger children.

If you are handy with tools, you may call Habitat for Humanity to see how you can help build a home for a family in need.

Or, if you are musically inclined, you can share your singing or instrumental gifts with a local nursing home. Maybe you are good in the kitchen. If so, you could offer your culinary skills to a local soup kitchen or food bank.

If you are a strong student, you could offer tutoring services to neighborhood kids to help prepare them for the next school year.

No matter what gift God has given you, there is a way to share it.

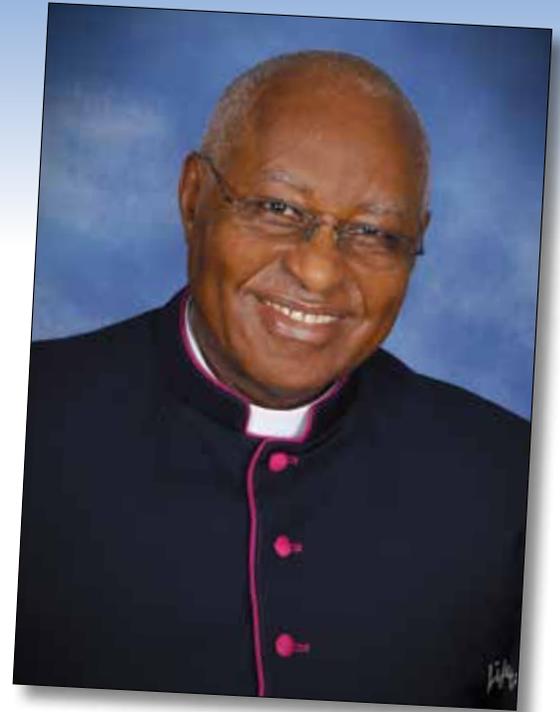
Getting paid for volunteering sometimes happens. And, if you have a summer job while on break, you'll get a paycheck for sure. Have you ever taken an opportunity to think about sharing the first fruits of your check?

As a young adult, returning a portion of your paycheck to God is an important thing to consider. After all, without Him, you wouldn't even have the talent to accomplish the job in the first place. Giving a portion back to Him is a way to say "thanks." Remember, the collection basket is not just for parents.

Whatever you do this summer, don't take a break from being a good steward. Remember that the time God gives you is a gift. What you do with it – whether on vacation or not – is meant to give Him glory. Why not use the extra time off to do just that?

A Letter From Our Pastor

# Prayer – By Us and For Us



Dear Parishioners,

**P**ope Francis has certainly had an impact on our Church, and maybe even on each of us individually. Do you recall his first words to the world and to us when he appeared on the balcony following his election as pope? He said quite simply, “Pray for me.” That is a feeling I share sometimes when I consider what needs to be done, and what I personally need to do. It may be a feeling each of us has – not just now and then, but relatively consistently.

Prayer – one of the four Pillars of Stewardship – is foundational to our faith and the practice of it. It is through prayer and the sacraments that we prepare ourselves to accept God’s plentiful gifts and blessings.

Each of us needs to develop a consistent prayer life. We should set time aside each day to pray. It is through prayer that we cultivate our personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We provide many opportunities for prayer as part of our parish life. This includes time for us to pray as individuals and time to pray as a community.

Our prayer lives culminate at Mass in the Eucharist. The Eucharist, prayer and stewardship are interconnected. In *Lumen Gentium*, we are reminded that the Eucharist is the “Source and Summit” of our Catholic faith. With the gift of the Eucharist and an active prayer life, we are better equipped to carry out the other three Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Formation and Service. You might say we pray to help us seek and find how to serve the Lord and others.

This is a time of year when we enjoy numerous opportunities to kick back and relax. One of the best ways to spend time is in prayer. In both our individual and communal prayer, we turn to God to perceive our gifts and talents – and then, as stewards, we need to place those gifts at the service of one another, and especially of the Lord.

You and I are on a journey together – a journey toward holiness. That journey involves an existence of daily conversion and an awareness of how grateful we need to be. Through prayer, we can better see ourselves as God sees us, and we can seek to find who God is calling us to be.

I want to assure you of my constant and daily prayers for you. Like the Holy Father, however, I also must admit that I need you to “pray for me.” I thank you for your prayers. I am blessed to be your pastor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda  
Pastor



# A Look Back on First Communion

*We congratulate our students who received their First Communion this spring at St. John Apostle & Evangelist!*



*FRE Class 2-3 A:*

**Catechists:** Lindy Plemer & Marie Lopez-Carreron  
**Aides:** Marie Buenrostro & Kylie Yasui  
**Row 1:** Lindy Plemer, Kiakahi Ke-a, Sebastian Tsutsui, Sophie Le, Rayden Biluan, Serah Yogi, Angeline Dimaya, Arin Gualberto, Zachary Sawai, Julie Quiroz-Zamora DRE.  
**Row 2:** Father Boniface Waema, Nathaniel Reed, Baylee Sakamoto, Maile Burnett, Madison Gelacio, Aubrey Proctor, Aldren Amigo, Devan Gardner, Monsignor John Mbinda.  
**Row 3:** Maria Buenrostro, Marco Maxwell, Jennifer Geschwind, Stephanie Kozelka, Tuputasi Gaopoa, Lauryn Paloma, Matthew Caliboso, Jake Chambers, Alanna Lopez-Adkins, Marie Lopez-Carreron

*FRE Class 2-3B:*

**Catechists:** Barbara Keliihoa (no photo) & Robert Garnsey  
**Aides:** Rhonda Kimura & Carolann Peters (no photo)  
**Row 1:** Julie Quiroz-Zamora DRE, Nayeli Halsey, Enrique Cardenas, Andre Luke Kindred, Brennan Roylo, Destiny Agustin, Leilani Westmoreland, Naioki Fujihira, Tessa Taflinger, Rhonda Kimura.  
**Row 2:** Father Boniface Waema, Chloe Falan, Marley Mullings, Connor Kimura, Aiden Augustine, Jameson McGill, Sonny Prestosa, Monsignor John Mbinda.  
**Row 3:** Robert Garnsey, Ivan Breceda, Lily Hogan, Richard Wisham, Shilo Castillo, Kiane Quiroga-Verhaaf



*FRE Class 4-11 B*

**Catechists:** Gene Lumantas, Ana Lokelani  
**Aide:** Travis Evans  
**Row 1:** Julie Quiroz-Zamora DRE, Ana Lokelani  
**Row 2:** Father Boniface Waema, Christian Cabanos, Carlilyn Pregana, Brandelyn Oshiro, Jazzlyn Venevongsoth, Constantine Pimental, Andrew Aquino, Monsignor John Mbinda.  
**Row 3:** Gene Lumantas, Dominic Aque, Jonathan Breceda, Jerome Cabanos, Christopher Matamoros, Layla Ryan

# A Look Back on Confirmation at St. John Apostle & Evangelist

*We congratulate our students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring at St. John Apostle & Evangelist.*



Photo by: Wayne St. Morris, Photography by Saint

**Catechists:** Staci Barcial, Kristine Cabudol, Brandi DeCosta, Catherine Ligaya. **Team Leaders:** Brooke Albete, Scott Alquisa, Caitlin Alvior, Cassandra Burigsay, Earl Domanguera, & Mikey Hartsock. **Row 1:** Seated - Very Reverend Gary Secor, Monsignor John Mbinda. **Row 2:** Kristine Cabudol, Reverend Boniface Waema, Alex Orense, Travis Evans, Joaquin Chaco, Tricia Reyes, Lorian Casem, Sophia Calio, Kylie Alos, Allysha Mateo, Adrienne Del Rosario, Caitlin Alvior, Cassandra Burigsay,. **Row 3:** Brandi DeCosta, Bronson Cafirma-Tucay, Matthew Sanchez, Jacob Antos, Kelly Chen, Deacon Wally Mitsui, Deacon Romeo Ganibe, Kelsie Dait, Kaile Yasui, Hi'ilei Foster, Casey Metrose, Catherine Ligaya, Brooke Albete, Scott Alquisa. **Row 4:** Staci Barcial, Christian Napoleon, Jeremiah Domanguera, Jacen Ancheta, Timothy Won, Kobe Dait, Elena Gutierrez, Lauren Kaialii, Bethany Higa, Frances Patu, Julia Ostrov, Jessica Ostrov, Mikey Hartsock

## The Laundry Ministry *continued from front cover*

to continue giving back in a manner that fits her particular capabilities.

“This is the thing that I can do for now,” Hermie says. “I feel blessed doing it. There is no stress involved in this service – I do it in my own way on my own time.”

Similarly, Geri Olivares enjoys serving the Lord by coordinating and assisting with the washing of St. John Apostle & Evangelist’s altar linens. Her ministry began roughly eight years ago when she was searching for a way to further serve the faith community.

“I’ll do anything for the Lord,” Geri says. “It makes me feel good. I just feel blessed knowing that I am doing things for Him and His Church.”

At the age of 87, Geri still enjoys serving in whatever capacity she is able, describing volunteering as “something that is beautiful” and always makes her “feel good.” She, along with her wonderful team of women, works to ensure that the altar linens are cleaned, pressed and restocked for

each Mass. In this way, Geri works to make certain that the altar is prepared for our Lord during each sacred liturgy.

“Anything for the Lord should be nice and clean,” Geri says. “I wouldn’t want the Lord to see dirty linens – it is important for me that anything that is for Him should be cleansed.”

By performing these simple tasks, Geri and Hermie both are serving the Lord in their “little” way – their quiet acts of love undoubtedly bring joy to the Lord. In the process, says Geri, she has grown even closer to the Lord, feeling his presence “24/7.”

*If you are interested in joining the laundry ladies in their small, behind-the-scenes ministry, please contact Geri Olivares at 619-438-4933 or Hermie Madayag at 808-888-2540.*

# Keeping in Touch With the Holy Father: There's an App for That!

“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square – nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church – led by our Holy Fathers from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis – strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released The Pope App, which features a live webcam from the Vatican, along with quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists are taking the technological gifts at their fingertips and utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

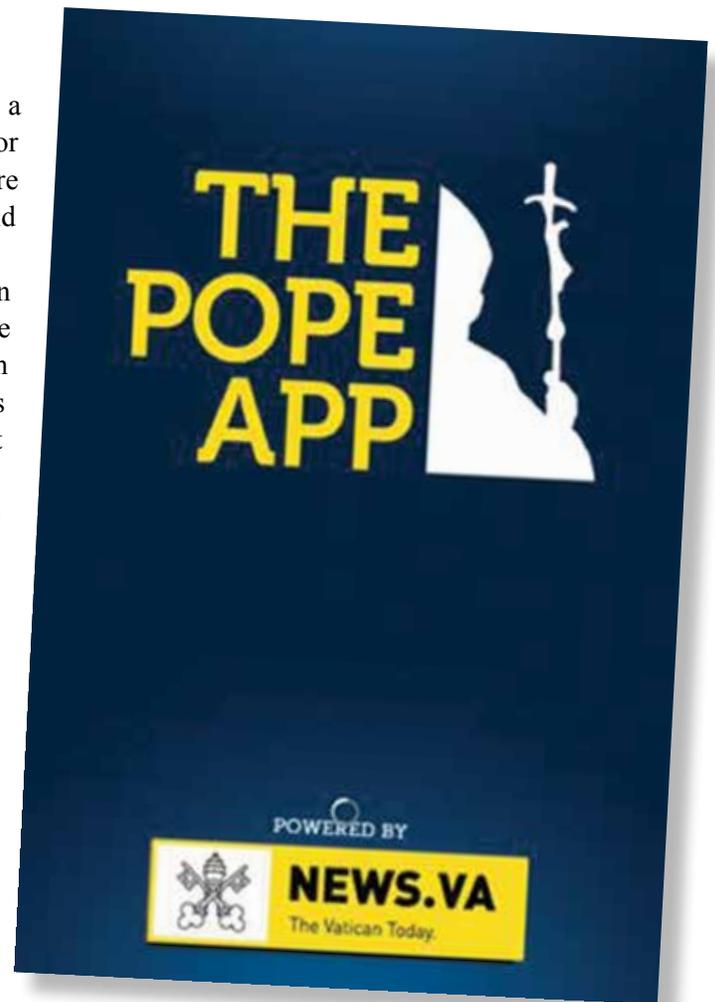
One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. His website also includes articles, interviews and his weekly homilies. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* DVD documentary series.

Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Here in America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the un-churched and fallen-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources your parish, school and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!



# Financial Report for Period Ending March 31, 2016

|  | Previous Fiscal Year<br>Actual<br>7/1/2014-6/30/2015 | PERIOD ENDING<br>July - March 2016 |                | Current Fiscal Year<br>Budget<br>7/1/2015-6/30/2016 |
|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------|---|
|  |  | Actual                             | Budget         |   |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>  |  |                                    |                |   |
| Sunday Collection  | 782,772  | 626,879                            | 596,325        | 795,100   |
| Immaculate Conception  | 3,837  | 3,411                              | 3,820          | 3,820   |
| Christmas  | 39,335   | 36,019                             | 39,320         | 39,320  |
| Easter   | 32,718   | 26,837                             | 21,813         | 32,720  |
| BEMO   | 75,040   | 54,256                             | 56,250         | 75,000  |
| Sacramental Offerings  | 12,730   | 3,930                              | 13,500         | 18,000  |
| Candle Sales   | 27,296   | 21,091                             | 20,025         | 26,700  |
| Book Sales   | 5,430  | 899                                | 4,500          | 6,000   |
| Religious Education Fees   | 6,845  | 8,585                              | 5,213          | 6,950   |
| Retreat & Workshop Fees Inc Youth Activities                     | 7,204  | 3,594                              | 4,950          | 6,600   |
| Occasional/Other Donations                                       | 23,583   | 27,315                             | 16,618         | 20,791  |
| Fundraising Revenue Subject to GET                               | 1,125  | 2,412                              | 4,500          | 6,000   |
| Interest Income  | 6,191  | 5,060                              | 4,575          | 6,100   |
| WGH Rebate   | 25,834   | 3,456                              | 9,450          | 12,600  |
| Grant Funds (Also See TR Donations Below)                        | 4,000  | -                                  | -              | -   |
| Stewardship Development Donations                                | 35,232   | -                                  | 30,000         | 40,000  |
| Lay Associations: W/Guild, Prayer Grp, etc.                      |  | 4,388                              |                |   |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>  | <b>1,089,172</b>                                     | <b>828,133</b>                     | <b>830,859</b> | <b>1,095,701</b>                                    |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>   |  |                                    |                |   |
| General Operations   | 443,865  | 326,291                            | 328,228        | 437,860   |
| Diocesan Assessment  | 124,932  | 100,008                            | 97,295         | 129,727   |
| Rectory  | 45,046   | 27,950                             | 39,761         | 53,014.00   |
| Property/Facilities  | 86,735   | 72,929                             | 74,179         | 98,907  |
| Liturgy  | 62,282   | 77,909                             | 85,848         | 114,464   |
| Religious Education (K - 8) Inc Prayer Groups                    | 119,090  | 86,642                             | 78,643         | 104,857   |
| Confirmation   | 15,402   | 2,985                              | 7,463          | 9,950   |
| RCIA   | 1,797  | 1,798                              | 1,454          | 1,939   |
| Social Ministries Inc Hui  | 1,959  | 720                                | 2,040          | 2,720   |
| Outreach include Weinberg  | 45,390   | 30,586                             | 30,110         | 40,146  |
| Pro-Life Ministry  | 2,891  | 5,971                              | 2,565          | 3,420   |
| Youth Ministry   | 26,235   | 14,657                             | 23,234         | 30,979  |
| Faith Formation*   | 22,511   | 5,677                              | 3,750          | 5,000   |
| Stewardship Development  | 67,993   | 37,755                             | 47,039         | 62,718  |
| Lay Associations: W/Guild, Prayer Grp, etc.                      |  | 1,040                              |                |   |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>                                       | <b>1,066,129</b>                                     | <b>792,919</b>                     | <b>821,609</b> | <b>1,095,701</b>                                    |
| <b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>                               | <b>23,043</b>  | <b>35,213</b>                      | <b>9,250</b>   | <b>-</b>  |
| <b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED DONATIONS</b>                          |  |                                    |                |   |
| Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation: With Grateful Hearts Grant | 4,000  |                                    |                |   |
| Stewardship Development  | 35,232   | 21,131                             |                |   |
| Building Fund Collection (Pre/Future Construction)               | 35,309   | 9,134                              |                | -   |
| Subtotal of Current Year Donations                               | 74,541   | 30,265                             |                |   |
| Less: Expenses (Net Assets Released to Oper.)                    | (40,034)   |                                    |                |   |
| <b>TEMP. RESTRICTED DONATIONS - NET</b>                          | <b>34,507</b>  | <b>30,265</b>                      |                |   |
| <b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>                                      | <b>57,550</b>  | <b>65,479</b>                      |                |   |

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

#### Notes:

- 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.
- Change in Net Assets does not include non-cash income - change in value in Land & Building.
- Please direct questions about this report to the Finance Council.

## Loving God in *Silent Ways*

Through His words, Jesus reminds us that prayers and acts of service aren't about the "show" – "And your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Matthew 6:6). Rather, prayers and acts of service are about cultivating our relationship with Christ. Each prayer, each liturgical ministry, and each charitable act is a way for us to show Him our love and gratitude.

For parishioner Frances Cuesta, this is precisely why she loves her "behind-the-scenes" ministry of washing the altar servers' cassocks, describing it as a "way of giving back to the Lord."

"It is just another way for me to serve the Lord," Frances says. "I don't want to be known – this is just a way for me to quietly serve Him."

Frances first became involved with the Laundry Ministry after speaking with Margaret Higa, who currently coordinates the cleaning of the altar servers' cassocks. Margaret's mother had previously overseen the care of the cassocks, but was looking for new parishioners to take over the ministry.

"My boys were already altar serving, and so I said, 'Sure, why not?' Frances says. "I want to be a good role model to my kids, showing them the importance of service. Since they are wearing them, I felt this was a good way for me to serve."

For the past four years, Frances and two other ladies have been working together in a monthly rotation to ensure that each altar server's cassock is cleaned, pressed and organized for every liturgy. This is important, says Frances, because in addition to assisting the priests, the altar servers also set an example for the congregation.

"To me, this ministry is important because we want our servers to be clean and presentable," Frances says. "They are the ones assisting the priest on the altar. The altar servers need to be well groomed, neatly dressed with clean cassocks because all the parishioners are looking at them for an example on how to properly worship."

In today's busy world, time feels ever fleeting. Struggling to find time for work and family, oftentimes we feel unable to serve further. The Laundry Ministry is just one example of how serving God and His church can easily intertwine with our daily responsibilities.

"You are already doing your own laundry – it is easy to add the church's laundry, as well," Frances says. "It is another way of saying, 'Lord, thank you for all that you have done for me.' This is also a way for me to give back to the parishioners as part of that church family."



*Frances Cuesta enjoys quietly serving through the Laundry Ministry, caring for the altar servers' cassocks.*

*"It is another way of saying, 'Lord, thank you for all that you have done for me.' This is also a way for me to give back to the parishioners as part of that church family."*  
– Frances Cuesta

*If you are looking for a way to demonstrate your love for God that will easily fit into your daily life, then perhaps the Laundry Ministry is for you. To assist with the maintenance of the altar servers cassocks, please contact Margaret Higa at 808-623-1340 or [sjaserver@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sjaserver@hawaii.rr.com).*