



## “We Are the Church” St. John’s Kiddy DeCoster

A native of Hveragerði, Iceland, Kristin (Kiddy) DeCoster first began working with wool in a climate quite different from ours. She remembers pulling wool from the neighborhood sheep and spinning it to make yarn. From the yarn, she made sweaters, gloves, hats, socks, and anything else to stay warm.

Today, Kiddy makes something entirely different with yarn – she has personally crocheted thousands and thousands of lei a symbol of hospitality, for others.

“I am a giving person and love to see the smiles of the people to whom the lei is presented,” Kiddy says. “I have made thousands not only for the Church, but also for the military. Pope Benedict XVI was even presented one of my lei by a parishioner.”

Raised in a Lutheran home, Kiddy met her husband, Richard, when he was a submariner stationed in Iceland.

They were married in the Catholic Church and then lived at several different bases before settling in Hawaii, which is where Kiddy joined the Church in 1988.

Kiddy has watched St. John Apostle & Evangelist change over the years as the physical building was renovated to further beautify the worship space itself. New seats were added, as well as better lighting, new fans and now solar panels. Kiddy looks forward to the building of the new parish hall.

“I love the beautiful new altarpiece behind the altar,” Kiddy says. “We have seen many priests come and go, and our church seems to grow a little better as times goes by.”

As an active member of the faith community, Kiddy has found a way to use her talents with wool working. Using four-ply yarn and a large crochet hook, she now makes lei for all the new parishioners or visitors at all the Masses. She watches at the 5 p.m. Mass as people twirl the lei and try to discern how they are made.



*Kiddy DeCoster presenting a lei to a participant of the Navy Sailor of the Year Award for Fleet Reserve Association*

### Inside This Issue...

- 3** Stewardship: “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice in It and Be Glad”
- 4** A Look Back on Our One Community Celebration
- 6** The Importance of Family Prayer
- 7** Financial Report for Period Ending June 30, 2016
- 8** “Transforming Our Youth Into Dynamic Christians”

## St. John's Kiddy DeCoster *continued from front cover*

A while ago, Kiddy was at the hospital and saw women battling cancer who had lost their hair as they underwent chemotherapy.

"I started to make crochet hats for them, and I ended up taking hats to Tripler, Kaiser and Wahiawa General for the cancer patients," Kiddy says. "The women at Tripler wanted camouflage hats, so I bought camouflage yarn and made them for the ladies."

Many of our servicemen and servicewomen have received lei from Kiddy, including those in the Fleet Reserve Association, the Coast Guard, the Navy and the Submarines Service USSVI Bowfin Base. Her lei have also gone to the Navy League Honolulu Council and the recipients of the Richard R. DeCoster Scholarship, which was named for her husband who

passed away. The Richard R. DeCoster Scholarship is presented at the Bowfin's annual scholarship ceremony held in May.

"These tricolor, patriotic lei are made with red, white and blue yarn," Kiddy says. "They are all over the world."

Over the years, Kiddy has given to the faith community in many ways, including serving as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion for over 25 years and as a member of the Women's Guild.

She has also served on the Board of Directors for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association and

is a member of the women's unit of the Honolulu Branch 46 Fleet Reserve Association, and of the SubVettes of the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated, Bowfin Base, Hawaii. Over the years, Kiddy has done the rope work on the railings and helms of the *USS Bowfin*, much of which is still in use today.

The giving and friendly parishioners Kiddy has met inspire her more and more to continue giving.

"By volunteering, I feel like I am giving the love, time and talent I have to participate in the vision of St. John – 'to develop a deeper relationship with Christ,'" Kiddy says. "We are the Church. It's up to us to make it better with the outpouring of our love to others."



*St. John's Kiddy DeCoster*



*Kiddy DeCoster bringing clothes and food to veterans*



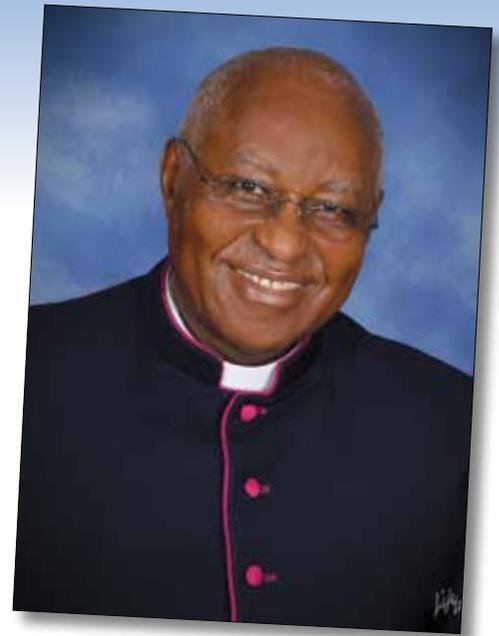
*Kiddy DeCoster gathered with other faith community members praying to end abortion*



*Kiddy DeCoster presents a lei to Medal of Honor recipient, Private George Sakato*

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## Stewardship: “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice in It and Be Glad”



Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes, we spend much time looking at, analyzing and speaking about the meaning of various passages and readings from Holy Scripture. Of course, we need to do that – it is important to our spiritual well-being, and to have a complete understanding of the messages revealed to us in the Word of God. As you are aware, most weeks we have four readings as part of our Liturgy of the Word – a First Reading, then a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, and the Holy Gospel.

The one reading that sometimes is ignored is that Psalm. Yet, there are truths and wisdom in the Psalms that are worthy of our comments and our recognition. Psalm 24 (a song of David) strikes me in particular as one rich in meaning for us, especially from the perspective of stewardship. It opens, “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.” For me, that says everything we believe and provides us with all the motivation we need to pursue stewardship as a way of life.

Let us consider how profound that statement – “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds” – really is. If we do embrace stewardship as a way of life, we admit and accept that everything comes from God and everything is God’s. Stewardship is not complicated, although we try to make everything complex and complicated, it seems. It is, as stated, merely the realization that our very existence, our lives, our goods all come from and in finality belong to God. We are the stewards of all of this. If we do accept that and try to live that way, we then tend to administer well God’s gifts on behalf of God. That is all stewardship is.

At the heart of all of this is our relationship with the Lord. We can also say that stewardship is all about getting that relationship right. Jesus certainly makes reference to stewards and stewardship in the Gospels. The Gospels were all written in Greek, and the English words for “steward” and “stewardship” are translations from a Greek word that means “to administer what belongs to someone else.”

That is what we do in this life. We receive gifts – we are granted the stewardship of time, talent and treasure from God. But all of this and all we may be are only gifts. Our use of them to serve one another and all those around us in our community, our parish and the Church Universal is the measure of our stewardship.

In the northern hemisphere, autumn begins on Thursday, Sept. 22. This time of year in the Church is when everything seems to begin or resume. There is another wonderful Psalm that states, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad” (Psalm 118:24). Let us do that together, and let us be good stewards together.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda  
Pastor

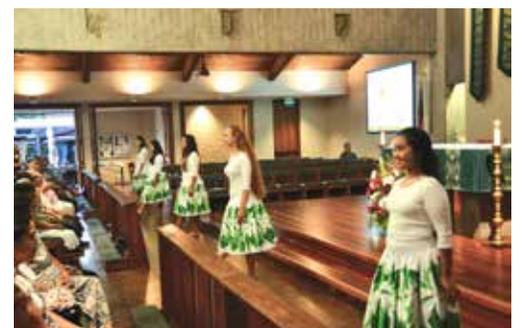
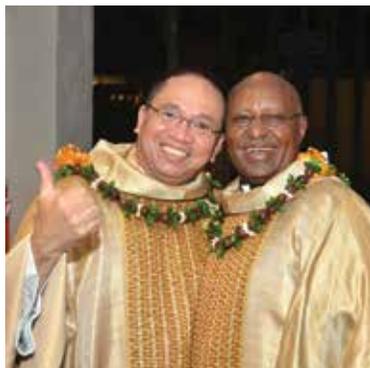


# *A Look Back on Our One Community Cele*

*Mahalo to all who joined us for the One Community Celebration and our 45th Anniversary Mass! These were both wonderful events that wouldn't have been possible without the help and service of many volunteers.*



# Celebration



## The Importance of Family Prayer

“The family that prays together stays together.” This famous slogan was coined in 1947 by writer Al Scalpone, and has been frequently referenced ever since. The phrase pinpoints the true power of prayer, and the importance of making family prayer a consistent practice in our lives.

As Christian disciples, we are striving to follow Jesus – to grow in our love of Him and to serve Him through the use of our time, talent and treasure. If we desire to follow in His footsteps, we must first begin by getting to know Him. Spending time with the Lord in prayer forms a foundation on which we can build our lives as Christian disciples, much in the same way that spending time with a girlfriend or boyfriend forms the foundation of a strong relationship.

The Christian family is the first place where children learn to pray. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the family unit “Ecclesia domestica,” or “the Domestic Church” (1656). Thus, parents have a responsibility to set an example by taking time for personal prayer every day, and making family prayer a regular practice. This not only sets an example for the children, but also provides them with a faith-filled foundation and brings them closer to the Lord – forming them as grateful stewards of their time.

There are many ways in which a family can pray together. One of the most important times for prayer is before meals, where we thank God for His blessings, and for the food on our family table. Families may also share in the formal prayers of the Church, or perhaps pray a Rosary together every night. We can also thank the Lord aloud, asking Him to answer our prayers and offering Him our daily petitions. One often-suggested method of family prayer is ACTS, where we offer Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Families may also go to their church and kneel together before the Blessed Sacrament, offering prayers in Christ’s Presence.

These are just several of the many opportunities for families to pray together. Of course, prayer will be influenced by each family’s dynamics and personalities. But no matter how we pray, it is important that we make the time to do so. This will deepen the family’s relationship with the Lord, our commitment as His disciples will be stronger, and we may continually renew and foster our families’ bonds.



### PRAYER OF PARENTS:

*God, our Father, I thank you for the gift of my children and for the privilege and responsibility of being a parent, for this is my way of holiness.*

*May I regard each of my children as a sacred pledge of Your love and a beautiful sign of Your confidence in me.*

*Help me to pass on to my children our greatest treasures — faith in Your truths, hope in Your goodness, love in Your name for all.*

*I entrust my children to Your loving care. Banish from our home any bitterness or lack of forgiveness.*

*Let us have time, deep concern, and a sense of sacrifice for one another. Teach us never to be ashamed that we are, in name and in fact, a Catholic family striving to live in the way of Jesus, Who is head of our home.*

*Give us Your Holy Spirit to unite us throughout this life and let the circle of our family be unbroken in the Kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

# St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church Financial Report for Period Ending June 30, 2016

	Previous Fiscal Year Actual 7/1/2014-6/30/2015	PERIOD ENDING July - June 2016		Current Fiscal Year Budget 7/1/2016-6/30/2017
		Actual	Budget	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Sunday Collection	782,772	842,870	795,100	865,000
Immaculate Conception	3,837	3,411	3,820	4,000
Christmas	39,335	36,019	39,320	40,000
Easter	32,718	27,496	32,720	34,000
BEMO	75,040	71,167	75,000	-
Marriage & Family Life	-	-	-	3,500
Liturgy	-	-	-	19,000
Sacramental Offerings	12,730	5,040	18,000	13,000
Candle Sales	27,296	27,986	26,700	30,000
Book Sales	5,430	1,004	6,000	3,500
Religious Education Fees	6,845	9,015	6,950	10,100
Retreat & Workshop Fees Inc Youth Activities	7,204	4,604	6,600	4,000
Occasional/Other Donations*	23,583	33,307	20,791	16,220
Fundraising Revenue Subject to GET	1,125	2,412	6,000	11,000
Interest Income	6,191	6,756	6,100	6,100
WGH Rebate	25,834	3,949	12,600	4,200
Grant Funds (Also See TR Donations Below)	4,000	-	-	-
Stewardship Development Donations	35,232	-	40,000	
Lay Associations: W/Guild, Prayer Grp, etc.		6,810	-	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>1,089,172</b>	<b>1,081,846</b>	<b>1,095,701</b>	<b>1,063,620</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
General Operations	443,865	471,454	437,860	426,980
Diocesan Assessment	124,932	133,344	129,727	133,200
Parish Council				20,000
Rectory	45,046	40,713	53,014	45,532
Property/Facilities	86,735	96,062	98,907	91,636
Marriage/Family Life	-	-	-	4,450
Liturgy	62,282	105,624	114,464	88,892
Religious Education (K - 8)	119,090	114,886	104,857	101,849
Confirmation	15,402	7,782	9,950	10,295
RCIA	1,797	2,146	1,939	2,113
Marriage Prep (Sacrament)			-	1,000
Social Ministries Inc Hui*	1,959	1,786	2,720	
Outreach include Weinberg	45,390	46,231	40,146	
Social Ministry (Local & Global Umbrella)				70,000
Pro-Life Ministrv	2,891	6,535	3,420	3,978
Youth Ministry	26,235	31,100	30,979	8,345
Faith Formation	22,511	5,949	5,000	4,100
Stewardship Development	67,993	49,121	62,718	51,250
Lay Associations: W/Guild, Prayer Grp, etc.		1,254	-	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>1,066,129</b>	<b>1,113,985</b>	<b>1,095,701</b>	<b>1,063,620</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>23,043</b>	<b>(32,139)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED DONATIONS</b>				
Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation: With Grateful Hearts Grant	4,000			
Stewardship Development	35,232	22,406		
Building Fund Collection (Pre/Future Construction)	35,309	22,170		-
Subtotal of Current Year Donations	74,541	44,576		
Less: Expenses (Net Assets Released to Oper.)	(40,034)			
<b>TEMP. RESTRICTED DONATIONS - NET</b>	<b>34,507</b>	<b>44,576</b>		
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>57,550</b>	<b>12,437</b>		

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.

# “Transforming Our Youth Into Dynamic Christians” Edge at St. John Apostle & Evangelist

Being passionately Catholic is magnetic. Young people who are enthused and informed disciples can evangelize wherever they go by simply being living witnesses of their faith.

“With the fire of the Holy Spirit, I am sure the youth will change the world,” says Gabriel Ganibe, Edge Youth Minister. “I am excited to be a part of the transformation of our youth into dynamic Christians.”

This August, St. John Apostle & Evangelist launched Edge, the new youth ministry program tailored specifically for our middle school young people.

“Edge and the greater Life Teen Ministry share a simple mission – leading teens closer to Christ,” Gabriel says.

Gabriel has witnessed firsthand how Edge’s holistic and relational model transforms those involved. A support and prayer network is created that carries our young people into their high school years.

“I have seen how teens can grow closer to Christ,” Gabriel says. “I know that youth ministry provides youth with the right tools to deepen their faith and relationship with Christ and the Church.”

Since Edge is for middle school youth, the curriculum and related activities are designed specifically for this stage of adolescence. The program has three types of meetings that focus on curriculum, service and fellowship.

“Through *curriculum* meetings, we deepen our relationship with Christ by learning about our Church, our faith and ourselves,” Gabriel says. “Our faith leads us to serving those



(from left) Taylor Mitchell (Lifeteen Core Member), The Edge Core Team at St. John Apostle & Evangelist: Laura Peeters, Gabriel Ganibe, and Heidi Sparks. Not pictured: Vanessa Stone-Pascua and Lisa Padilla

in need, and we also enjoy *social* activities that bring us closer together as a community.”

The meetings begin with gathering in prayer and thanksgiving and reading a passage from Scripture. Then there is the heart of each meeting, which may be an electrified discussion on Scripture, offering food to the hungry or engaging in a game of kickball.

“There’s always a take-away message,” Gabriel says. “We challenge our youth to share their knowledge and blessings with everyone they meet.

Appropriately, every meeting concludes with prayer. The youth can make supplications aloud or in silence together.”

The Edge Core Team is made up of active faith community members from different cultural and occupational backgrounds. Core Team members go through an application process and a background check. They also have legal and catechetical training according to the requirements set by the parish.

“All Core Team members share a common factor – a passion for sharing their love for Christ with the youth,” Gabriel says. “They are all representative of the Edge program and good role models for our youth.”

All parents are welcome to meet the Core Team members and to ask any questions that they might have about the program.

“I encourage parents to support their children’s participation in Edge,” Gabriel says. “I have hope that parents may find inspiration in their children’s spirituality and enter into their own deeper spiritual journey.”

Edge provides our middle school youth with a safe place

to be themselves, to grow together in Christ and to become confident, energized Catholics.

“I am passionate about being Catholic,” Gabriel says. “I have faith that the youth will be empowered when they see how cool and fulfilling it is to do God’s work.”



Edge hosted a glow-in-the-dark dodge ball tournament that concluded with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Teens from Edge’s Vacation Bible School summer program this June