



Inside This Issue...

- 2** Parish Health Ministry Builds Love and Trust in the Community
- 3** Pray, Smile, and Make the World a Better Place
- 4** Questions and Answers About Our Annual Stewardship Renewal
- 6** "People Who Love the Lord and Love This Parish"
The St. John Apostle & Evangelist Stewardship Council

Visiting Priest Shares Needs of Fellow Africans

A missionary inspired Fr. Daniel Ache in his desire to become a priest, and now Fr. Daniel is himself serving as a missionary as he works to share the human needs of those in the Diocese of Kumbo in his home of Cameroon in central West Africa.

Fr. Daniel joined us on Aug. 8 as Msgr. John was preparing to leave on vacation. "I was able to spend time with him before he left," Fr. Daniel says.

He has been helping with celebrating Mass, making calls to the sick, conducting funerals and attending meetings for various parish groups.

"One of the most striking things for me, I became a member of the St. John's Council of Knights of Columbus," he says, welcoming the challenges of living the organization's principles of Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism, and Charity.

Fr. Daniel said he believes he was called to the priesthood when he was rather young, the oldest of five children in a Christian family. He observed a missionary working near his home.

"I saw the very profound way he was touching lives, helping us to know God better," he recalls.

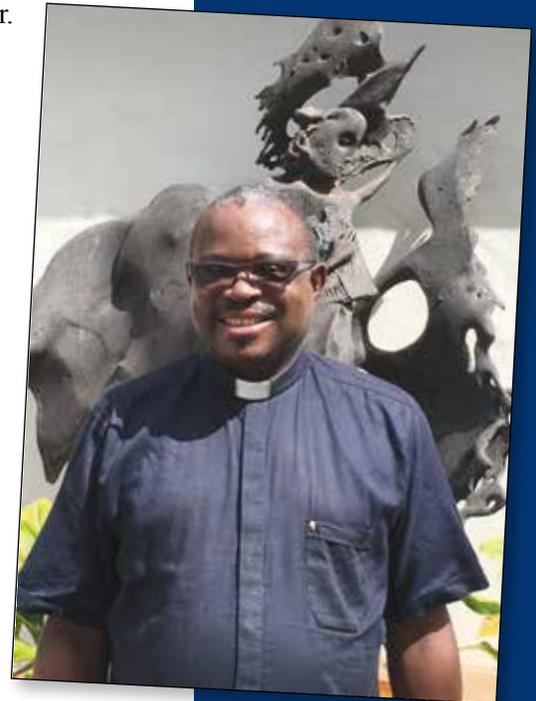
When he went to college, he shared his call to be a priest, and his parents accepted this call and encouraged him to pursue his vocation. Many of his friends also were supportive, helping him with tuition.

"My bishop found me worthy of priesthood, and on 23rd April, 1992, I was ordained," he says.

During the past 10 years, Fr. Daniel has visited and done missionary appeals in a large number of parishes in the United States.

"My bishop sends me to do missionary appeals," he says. "This is my first time in Hawaii. I find it very interesting and very different."

Fr. Daniel serves as diocesan coordinator of Caritas, the social ministry for the Diocese of Kumbo.



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Parish Health Ministry Builds Love and Trust in the Community

As Catholics, our stewardship lifestyle means sharing our time, talent and treasure with others in the community by responding to the needs of others. The Catholic Church has taught the whole person needs to be nourished by grace of mind, body and soul. We may not always consider that stewardship encompasses both spiritual and physical health.

Ministering in this ministry has helped our team build our love and trust with other people in our faith community. It allows us to use our talents both spiritually and physically to help others.

Our Parish Health Ministry team is comprised of 22 professionals, such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, doctors, dietitians, social workers and counselors. By being involved, our team members share their God-given talents to care for their physical health. This ministry provides educational workshops, such as Alzheimer's Disease, Breast Cancer Awareness, Diabetes, Wills and Trust, and monthly Blood Pressure checks. Our team is also available at each Mass on Saturday and Sunday in the event of an emergency and informs the assigned ushers if help is needed.

Our Parish Health Ministry team has experienced a close relationship of God's love and graces within our faith community and ourselves. The philosophy of our ministry is that the spiritual and physical health goes hand-in-hand when it is done in His name.

The Health Ministry is sponsoring a Health Fair on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church grounds. Healthy, fun-filled resources will be offered for all ages. We will have blood pressure checks, flu shots, nutrition



Nearly 30 people comprise the Health Ministry team, made up of a combination of nurses, dietitians and doctors.

demos, senior Tai Chi, Zumba, hand-washing hygiene and more. Come and join the FUN!

People look forward for their blood pressure checks followed by other health questions. As a team, we are filled with God's love that radiates to our parishioners and as nurses – we are God's instrument to serve unconditionally and share.

If you work in a health care field and would like to share your God-given talents with the faith community, please consider participating in the Health Ministry. If you would like to learn more about living a healthy life, please consider coming to the Health Fair on Oct. 29, or watch for workshops coming up.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Elaine Gibson at 808-497-8366 or egibbi2441@yahoo.com.

A Letter From Our Pastor

Pray, Smile, and Make the World a Better Place

Dear Parishioners,

We often in the Church speak of “new beginnings.” Those two words can have almost endless meanings to us and to how we live our lives. Now that the fall season is in full swing, even though we tend to think more of spring as being a “new beginning,” now is equally so. Think of all the things in our lives and in those of our families that have begun or begun again in the past several weeks.

Two thoughts come to me as I ponder the significance of this time of year. It seems that there is never a time of year when starting over and renewing are not appropriate. We speak often of prayer – Jesus certainly provides for us both an example and encouragement to have rich prayer lives. Now would be a great time for a personal spiritual renewal, both for us individually and for our families, if appropriate.

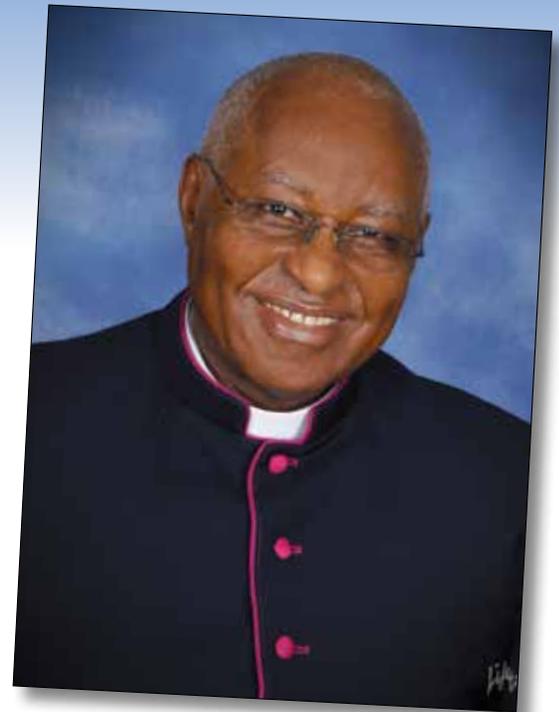
There are prayer groups and spiritual studies beginning and ongoing at our parish. You might consider getting involved in one. No matter what you choose to do, it is always a

good time to extend and formalize your prayer life. Schedule more time for personal prayer. Even better, if you have a family, try to formalize the prayer lives of your family as a group. That can enrich your life so much, and often it is something that stays with children forever.

My second thought goes back to the theme often stated by Jesus to “love one another.”

Were you aware that studies done by healthcare groups have shown that people who try to be kind to others have less pain, less depression, and less stress in their lives? That is exactly what the Lord tells us will happen if we do even small things to demonstrate our love for one another.

That can begin with something as simple as a smile. Smiles certainly make others feel better, and they tend to help us, as well. Another way to show kindness is to get involved in ministries and activities. By committing ourselves to ministry and to being volunteers in a variety of ways, we are actually making the idea

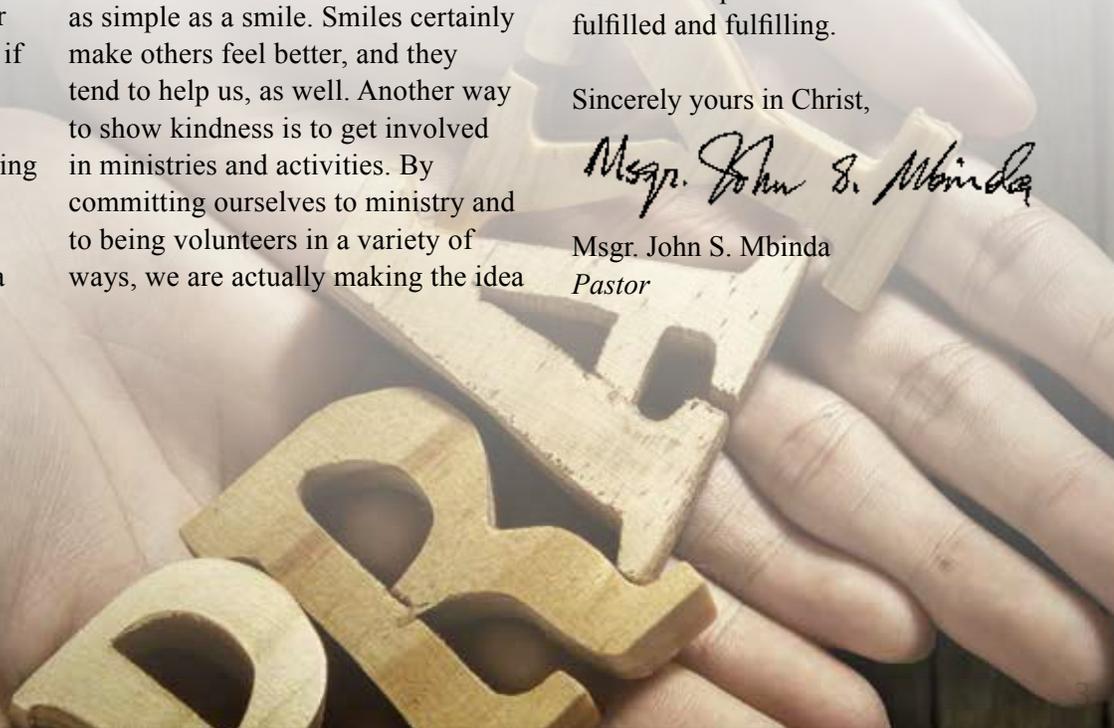


of being kind routine and normal. Look for ways you can do things that match and fulfill your talents and interests.

Those two thoughts, although seemingly small, can make a huge difference in our lives, not to mention the lives of those around us. First, pray more on a fixed schedule. Second, smile and be kind. It is amazing how those two aspects of our lives can be fulfilled and fulfilling.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor



Questions and Our Annual Stew

Our annual Stewardship Renewal is the time when we ask each other to re-prioritize the way we use God's gifts in the Church. Every parish family will receive a "Stewardship Package" in the mail that includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.

I feel like my life is already too full with family obligations and work obligations. I barely even have time to relax. How can I possibly share my time and talents with St. John Apostle & Evangelist?

We all have many obligations to our families, jobs, schools, and other endeavors. But we also all have the same number of hours in the day with which to accomplish these things. The issue is not how much time we have, but how we prioritize that time.

Before you fill out your Commitment Card, take some time to 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 am happy with my current level of parish participation. Why do I need to keep filling out a Commitment Card every year?

As part of the renewal process, it is important that we consider our current level of participation in parish life at St. John Apostle & Evangelist. Sometimes, the call to stewardship involves the quality of service in addition to its quantity. In looking through the opportunities for ministry available at the parish, you may find yourself drawn to a new ministry you haven't tried before, or new ways to share of your time with God to enrich and enlighten your prayer life. So even though your current level of parish participation might not change drastically, the ways in which you participate may evolve as you grow in living the stewardship way of life.

Even if you end up continuing to participate in the exact same ministries as you have in the past, marking and turning in a Commitment Card means you have reviewed your present ministries and re-committed yourself to them.

I'm not very active in the Church and, frankly, feel like it may be too late to get involved. Why should I 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 through which you can immediately re-enter the life of the parish. Our parish community is not here to judge you, but to welcome and nourish you in your faith journey. Begin by checking the box that says, "Attend weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation," and take some time to discern additional ways in which God is calling you from that starting point.

I'm physically unable to attend Mass or be active in parish life at St. John Apostle & Evangelist. Is there any reason for me to submit a Commitment Card?

Of course! Your prayers are just as important to the success of our parish community in carrying out its mission as ministry participation and financial contributions. Take a moment to look over some of the opportunities to spend quiet time with God listed in the "Stewardship of Time" section of the Commitment Card, and take a step towards growing in your relationship with Christ and His Church.

With such a tough economy, I'm reluctant to make a financial pledge for the year, in case my circumstances change and I'm unable to fulfill it. Should I?

Your Commitment Card is not a legally binding contract; it is a pledge of intentions. Make your pledge based on what you are setting out to do to give back to God, and do your best to fulfill that pledge. If your financial circumstances change, your gift will likely change, as well, but it is still important to prioritize God first. Nobody is going to send the

Answers About Stewardship Renewal

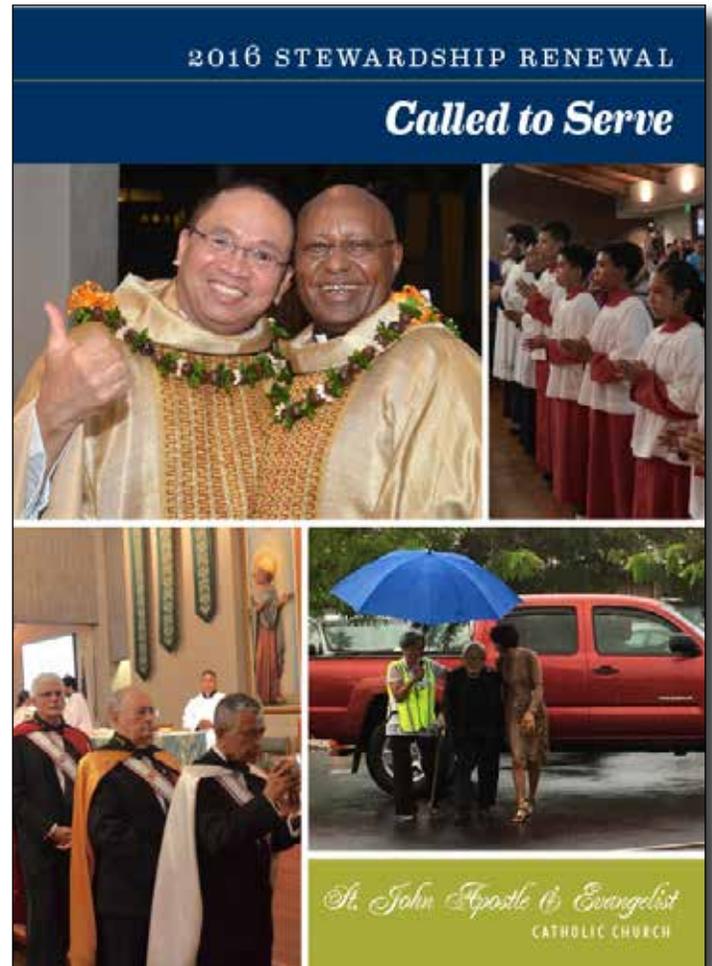
bill collector to your house if you can't fulfill your pledge due to a change in your financial situation! But we've all got to start somewhere, and it's important that we begin our commitment by writing down our goals for giving back of our gifts to God.

I've expressed interest in a ministry in the past through filling out a Commitment Card, but nobody from the parish ever followed up with me about it.

While we do our best to consistently follow up with everyone who has shown interest in the opportunities for ministry at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, we are human, and we sometimes fall short in our follow-up. If this has happened to you in the past, we sincerely apologize, and we encourage you to renew your interest in any activities in which you might like to participate by filling out a Commitment Card this year. Every year, we go into the renewal with every intention of making sure that everyone who has expressed interest is contacted with more information, and we will do so again this year.

I don't agree with everything that goes on at St. John Apostle & Evangelist. I feel like when I fill out a Commitment Card, it condones the things I disagree with.

In filling out a Commitment Card, you are not making a pledge between yourself and St. John Apostle & Evangelist; you are making a pledge between yourself and God. Disagreements occur in life. This is a part of being human, and we respect the opinions of each and every member of our parish family. But it is of utmost importance that each of us fulfills our discipleship of Christ by growing in our relationship with Him and utilizing the gifts He has given us to carry out His mission on Earth, regardless of disagreements or misunderstandings. Beyond helping the parish, filling out a Commitment Card expresses a devotion to spiritual growth and a strong belief in the Catholic Faith.





“People Who Love the Lord and Love This Parish” The St. John Apostle & Evangelist Stewardship Council

Stewardship and the development of stewardship is a high priority for the parish. In fact, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated three convictions about stewardship that we are pursuing here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist:

1. We must cultivate disciples and discipleship. Mature disciples make a conscious decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ.

2. Beginning with conversion, this discipleship is not expressed in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but it an entire way of life.

3. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, and the source of all they have and are and will be.

“Our council shares these convictions, and our role is to spread this message among our people,” says Regan Ramos, who is in the early months of his role as Chair and Facilitator of the council. “Our Stewardship Council – as it is and as it will be – is blessed with talented and committed people, people who love the Lord and love this parish. This council needs to be the model from which St. John Apostle & Evangelist Parish and the people of the parish find inspiration to continue growing in stewardship as a way of life. Along with the growth that is occurring in the parish, we need to grow in renewal and in involvement in ministries. It is the council’s job to facilitate that.”

Our Stewardship Council, according to Regan Ramos, is “in transition.” There are two factors in that transition. The first factor is Regan’s new role as Chair and Facilitator – for over 2 years, Bill Castro has served faithfully and well in that role. The second factor, as noted by Regan, is that “we are evaluating and reviewing who we are and strongly considering new members of the council. It is not that the previous council

was not active or effective – they very much were, but we also feel we need to develop in some new ways, and that may come from new ideas and members.”

Currently the Council consists of 12 lay volunteer members and two clergy for a total membership of 14. The group meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

“We work diligently to keep meetings to 90 minutes or less,” Regan says.

“There is much for us to do and cover, of course. We must stay in contact with and coordinate with the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Planning and Building Committee, the Leadership Advisory Committee, the Finance Council, the Capital Campaign Committee, and of course all our ministries and the leaders, because stewardship impacts the life of everything in the parish.”

As the Stewardship Council is seeking others who may be interested, Regan encourages them to make contact, or to pray about it and then indicate interest at the time of stewardship renewal this fall.

The founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius Loyola, once wrote a prayer that seems to capture the essence of the giving of self required by stewardship – “Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost.”

*“Our Stewardship Council – as it is and as it will be – is blessed with talented and committed people, people who love the Lord and love this parish. This council needs to be the foundation from which St. John Apostle & Evangelist Parish and the people of the parish find a foundation for the parish to continue going and growing.”
Regan Ramos, Stewardship Council Chair and Facilitator*

If you have any questions, or if you would like more information about our Stewardship Council, please contact Regan Ramos at 425-736-9204 or reganmila@yahoo.com, or please contact Msgr. John Mbinda at the parish office 808-623-3332.



Fall Harvest Celebration

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, VARIOUS ETHNIC FOOD VENDORS, GAMES,
ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN THE FUN, FELLOWSHIP, DELICIOUS FOOD &
ENTERTAINMENT!

Where: St. John A & E Church Grounds

When: Saturday, October 8th

Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:**

808-623-333, ext. 204 / 206 or sjaeRE@rcchawaii.org



Save The Dates: Life in the Spirit Seminar *A Weekend Experience*

Sponsored by St. John Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group

Friday, Oct. 21

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (registration at 7 p.m.)

Saturday, Oct. 22

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. (dinner to follow)

AWARENESS of God's love and His promise of new life and eternal salvation
RECEIVING the rebirth of Christ in our hearts
RENEWAL through growth and transformation in our lives
AFFIRMATIONS of Christ's presence and direction through personal testimonies

The seminar is free – lunch and dinner are provided on Saturday!
For more information, please call Frank and Nenita Hing at 625-6227.

Visiting Priest Shares Needs of Fellow Africans

continued from front cover

"Kumbo is about 3,800 square miles with a population of over 850,000," he says. "There are poor standards of living and it is an area of typical primary evangelization. There are lots of vocations here, but the students have no means to pay for tuition in school."

During his travels in the United States, Fr. Daniel has found many people who are committed to their faith and very welcoming. He was especially impressed with the warm welcome we extend to our parish's visitors, from the lei given first-time visitors, to the hospitality shown him by our parish staff and parishioners.

"It's been a beautiful experience," he says.

During his stay here, he has been talking about his work in the Caritas Ministry, the social welfare division of the Diocese of Kumbo.

"We try to respond to the needs in the communities and the needs are very diverse," he says. "It's a challenge with the economic situation. The income level is so low and families are going hungry."

A major problem is that many communities have no clean source of drinking water.

"Our people share the same sources of water used by the animals," Fr. Daniel says. "Children and women have to walk long distances to fetch water. Social workers are challenged to look for a means of support to provide water. Thanks to the Diocese of Limburg and Misereor in Germany, we have given water by gravity to 57 out of 387 villages in the area."

He is hoping to encourage the parishes he visits to help support the work of Caritas.

"These are some of the things we share, in the hope that others will continue to help," he says. "Our hands are open and our hearts are open to friends willing to help better the lives of the people out there."

Fr. Daniel's next stop after St. John will be at home in Cameroon.

If anyone wishes to help Fr. Daniel Ache in his work in Cameroon, and to learn more about the conditions there, please log onto the Caritas website at www.caritaskumbo.org.