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## "This Building Is Going to Fulfill the Dreams of Many of Us"

### *An Update on the One Community Center Building Schedule and Progress*

Parishioner Les Hunkele has been involved in the One Community Center project for the past two years since its serious inception. Responding to the call to stewardship, Les recognized that he had skills, talent and experience that would be useful to the parish as this building endeavor developed. In turn, he agreed to serve as the Chair of the Planning and Building Committee, as well as a member of the Parish Planning Committee, Leadership Advisory Committee, and also the Capital Campaign Committee.

Les has been a leader involved in the construction industry for more than 40 years at all levels and in programs measured in billions of dollars. In fact, he is the only resident of Hawaii who is a member of the National Academy of Construction and a Fellow of the Construction Management Association of America. These are the highest distinctions for constructors, and conferred sparingly to the most qualified. In addition to working as a contractor and as a construction manager, Les also teaches construction management on O'ahu. We are privileged to have Les involved so intimately in this project.

Working with his committee and other committees and professionals, Les has developed a step-by-step schedule for all activities needed to build the One Community Center. The project is on schedule, with design and some permitting *ahead* of schedule.

"I know people are eager for us to have the One Community Center," Les said. "We are now on the verge of construction. This building is going to fulfill the dreams of many of us.

"We have been working on this since late 2014," he says. "Much has been accomplished already, including studies, surveys, estimates, hiring designers, developing



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# Service

## *The Fourth Pillar of Parish Stewardship*

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are numerous references to service. There is the parable of the vigilant and faithful servants who await their master's return from a wedding, "ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks" (Lk 12:35-40). There is the story of the good Samaritan who was moved with compassion to help the victim of a violent robbery (Lk 10:25-37). And there are several examples of Christ serving those around Him – feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, and even turning water into wine at a wedding banquet.

Why is service a running theme throughout the Gospels? Because service is at the root of living in imitation of Christ. Christ served others throughout His life on Earth, and His death on the cross was the ultimate act of service to mankind. And when we serve others, we are not only following in Christ's footsteps, we are also serving Christ Himself: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

As a stewardship parish, service must be at the heart of everything we do. The parish community is the bastion of service within the Catholic Church, as we serve one another and are also served by our brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Diocese of Wichita's document, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, states, "Like a blood family, the parish family stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or celebrate special events in their lives."

It is good to recognize the parish community as a place where service is appreciated and can be utilized for the good of the Church. However, it is not enough for us to simply serve other members of our parish family. As disciples of Christ, it is our obligation to serve people in need everywhere they exist – in our families, our greater community, our country, and throughout the world. This can be a challenging concept, as it is often much more comfortable and convenient to serve those who are close to us than it is to reach out

to "outsiders." But, as *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* eloquently points out, "Failure to have this understanding leads to a selfish parochialism, which is life draining to a parish stewardship way of life."

Think of ways that you can serve others around you, both within our parish family and in the greater community. Our many parish ministries offer a great place to begin offering your time and talents, but the opportunities for service don't end there. There are many civic and nonprofit organizations that do an immense amount to serve others across the globe and are always looking for volunteers.

Once you serve, you will find that you will reap numerous rewards in return, much like the faithful servants who doubled the talents their master had entrusted to them: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy" (Mt 25:21).



*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## We Cannot Be Part-Time Christians

Dear Parishioners,

**M**ay is traditionally celebrated in the Church as the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother. As the Mother of the Church, she provides us with an example of what it means to be a servant of God and our fellow humans, as well as how to obediently fulfill the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

As Catholics, we are called to model the life of Jesus. That can be difficult, and there are certainly challenges to living as a disciple of Christ. But living stewardship and discipleship brings intense contentment and joy to those who take that risk. As we hear in St. Paul's letter to the Romans, "All things work for good for those who love God."

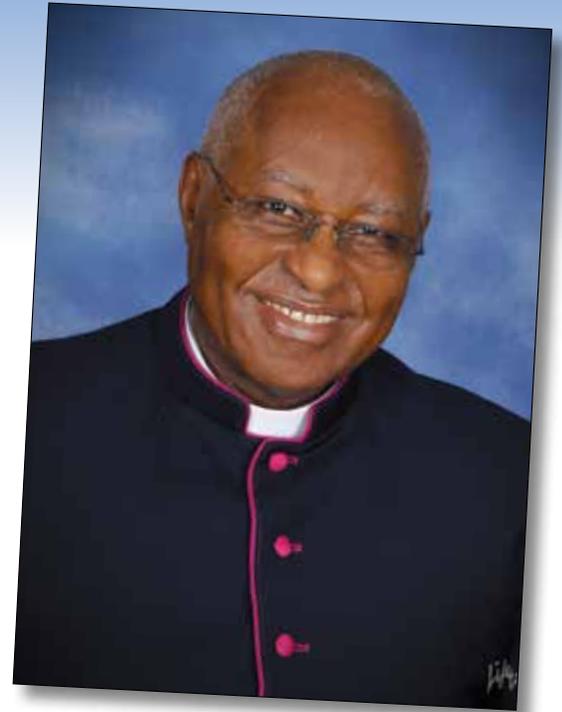
After Jesus Himself, we look to our Blessed Mother as an ideal steward and an example of what stewardship means. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her life and her ministry in a total spirit of faithfulness and service. She responded to the call to be a disciple. For us to be disciples, we also need to be good stewards of the gifts we have received. Our Church and our parish are gifts to us from God.

At no point in Holy Scripture does Jesus tell us that following Him is easy. We know it is not always simple and effortless. It requires dedication and commitment. Pope Francis has said on more than one occasion, "We cannot be part-time Christians and Catholics! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day."

I suspect that is how Mary lived her life from that moment she turned it over to God and His Will. So, let us vow together during this month of Mary to follow her example, and seek to be the kinds of good stewards that will make our faith community even stronger and more effective.

I pray that we all can find the strength to live and practice our faith as we should. This means being faithful to the sacraments and looking for ways to help and serve one another. We have a great parish – let us make it even greater.

As we hear in Holy Scripture, "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May



the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). Pray for me, as I pray for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda  
Pastor



# “We Can Offer Programs and Events Which Our One Community Ce



“Evangeli- zation” has been a buzzword in the Church for several years now, but many do not fully grasp its significance. One who does is our Holy Father, Pope Francis. In his Lenten message, he said this about evangelization: “The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter on evangelization titled *Go and Make Disciples*. In it, they outline goals for us as Catholics. The first reads, “To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others” (46). One of the people here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist who has that enthusiasm for the Catholic faith is Cesceli Nakamura, a member of the One Community Center Capital Campaign Committee. In addition, she chairs two important hospitality ministries here

at the parish – the Aloha Hospitality Ministry and the Parking Lot Ministry.

When Cesceli considers our One Community Center project, she gets very animated.

“I am so excited about the prospects that the new One Community Center offers both our faith and civic communities,” she says. “Not only will we be able to do things which enhance the daily lives of all those in the community, but we can offer programs and events which will enrich our Catholic lives in the parish.”

Cesceli shares that she has visited with many of our ministry leaders, and their excitement is nearly universal.

“They see so many things they will be able to do, not the least of which is just to have a place to meet,” she says. “But they also see that they can do welcoming dinners, educational events, and even opportunities for happenings which have appeal to our whole Mililani community. For me, anything we can do to bring people to St. John is positive and enriching. We want people to see and experience what we are

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# Will Enrich Our Catholic Lives in the Parish” *Center and Evangelization*

and who we are. What better way to show them this may be a place they want to be?”

“It is clear there are those two appeals to the completion of the One Community Center,” Cesceli continues. “First, it really will be a space and a place where the whole community around us can gather. And also – and this is very very important – it will be a place where our people can gather and find fellowship and connections. I can visualize everything from free tax services for people, to concerts, to attractive guest speakers. We need this, and I pray that all in the parish will recognize that and do what they can to assure it is fulfilled.”

Pope Francis has said over and over that we are a Church and as the members of that Church must not be passive, but active and aggressive: “Everyone needs to be evangelized.” By that, he means not just all around us, but at times those closest to us. The pope added, “Jesus teaches us that the Good News, which He brings, is not reserved for one part of humanity – it is to be communicated to everyone.” Cesceli agrees completely.

“Studies have shown that the most important factor in people deciding on a church or a faith is the fact that they feel welcomed,” she says. “That is what we need to do, and the One Community Center may be the key to us doing that as effectively as possible.”

## “This Building Is Going to Fulfill the Dreams of Many of Us” *continued from front cover*

contracts, as well as plans and specifications, and perhaps most important, achieving the approval of the bishop and the Diocese of Honolulu to move ahead. We are at this moment working on the final design documents, starting the processes required to hire both a construction manager and then a general contractor to actually build the One Community Center.”

Some specific schedule milestones of interest are: finalizing the design by June of this year, and by August, submitting the remaining required documents for requesting the necessary permits. By February 2018, a Construction Manager will be hired and all permits should be received from the City and County. In May 2018, the construction contract itself should be awarded to a general contractor. Groundbreaking is planned for June 11, 2018, with construction scheduled to start June 12, 2018. The plan is to complete construction within one year – by June 2019 – and dedicate the One Community Center in July 2019.

Les focuses on four aspects of the project.

“First, what will the **outside** look like? The design is such that the structure will fit very well into what we currently have. The architecture will be almost identical

to the Church. And good news: we will *not* need to build a garage.

“Second, the **inside** gives us something we have needed here for some time – a space large enough to accommodate events for a large number of people,” Les continues. “In addition, it will have modern technology especially in terms of audio and visual – including a large 7.5’ by 13.5’ screen on which we can project what is happening in the church.”

Third, the **schedule** – as reviewed above – is of upmost importance.

“Finally, and critically, we need to work within our **budget** and we need to have **funds** in a timely manner,” Les says. “That is why gifts and pledges at this time are so essential. This project is something my family has contributed to, and I believe it is something we as a parish community can all get behind, as well.”

We thank Les and his committee for all of their diligent work. We are on the verge of something very special at St. John Apostle & Evangelist. As we state in our campaign prayer, “God, grant us all that we need to complete Your mission.”

# Offering Our Love and Adoration to Jesus

**E**ucharistic Adoration is the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. Churches that have this adoration display the Eucharist in a special holder called a monstrance, and people come to pray and worship Jesus.

Christ's great love for us was shown when He was crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and give us eternal life. He loves us without limit, and offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Can we not give Jesus a few minutes of love and adoration in return?

## What is the importance of Eucharistic Adoration?

Eucharistic Adoration is the respect and worship we give to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace.

## What are the fruits of Eucharistic Adoration?

People who observe Eucharistic Adoration experience a deeper devotion to Jesus, and this manifests itself in countless ways. The primary fruits are repentance and conversion, which lead to increased charity — that is, the love of Christ alive in His people. The adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist also leads to greater reverence at Mass, a deeper desire for personal holiness, and a stronger sense of union with the parish and the whole Church. Ever since the early centuries of Christianity, the Church has linked Eucharistic

Devotion to service to the poor. The practice has, more recently, led to an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

## What is proper etiquette during Eucharistic Adoration?

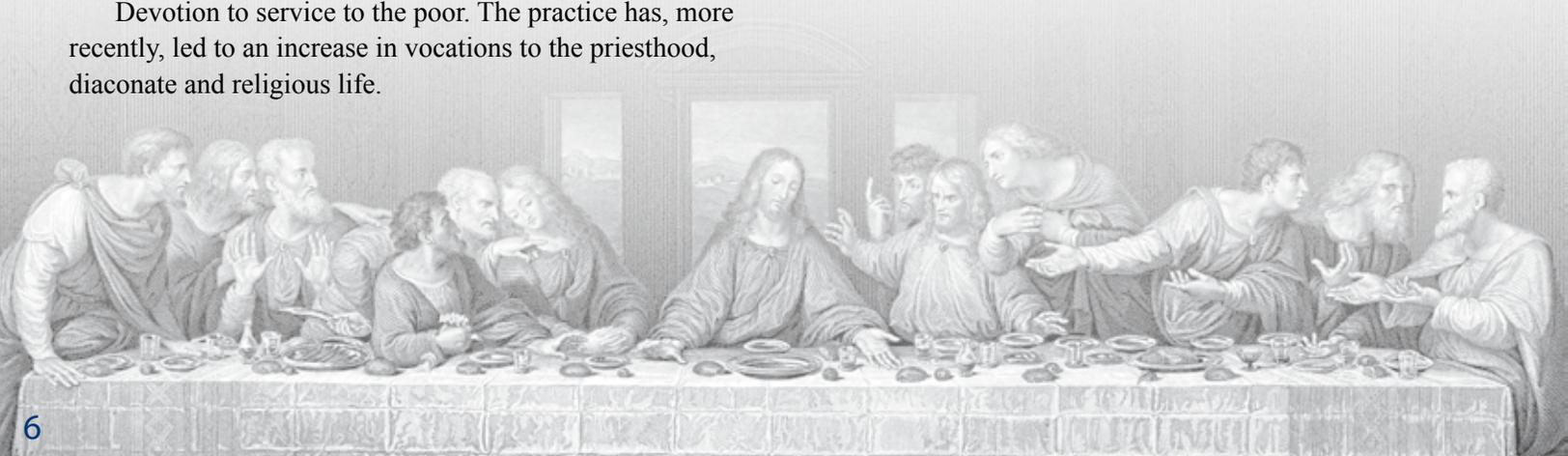
When we are not taking part in vocal prayers and hymns with other adorers, we should be praying silently. Whenever we pass before the place where the Sacred Host is reserved, we should genuflect. We should observe the modest dress and decorum that are appropriate to very solemn occasions. We should avoid any actions that might disturb or distract others, or otherwise draw attention to ourselves rather than Jesus.

## How should we pray during Eucharistic Adoration?

There are many ways to pray. We may meditate in silence by gazing on the Sacred Host. We may silently speak to Jesus from our mind and heart. We may also rely on devotions and prayers from Catholic tradition, such as the reading of Scripture, recitation of the Rosary, or the litanies. When two or more are gathered before the Sacrament, they may pray or sing hymns together.

## What is the best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration?

The best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration is by doing it! Make frequent visits to Jesus at the tabernacle. Invite your spouse, your children, your neighbors and co-workers to join you. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. 'To visit the Blessed Sacrament is ... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord'" (1418).



# Honoring Our Lady at the May Crowning

*“It’s a prayerful time, and it’s very spiritual and respectful to honor her. And as we honor Blessed Virgin Mary, we honor our own mothers, especially during this Mother’s Day weekend. Many of us have our own moms in heaven, so it’s a very meaningful and touching devotion.” – Georgette Ane*

Each May, Catholics all over the world celebrate the month of Mary, and take the time to do a little something special for the mother of God – and our mother in Heaven. Here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, our Women’s Guild honors Our Lady through the annual May Crowning.

“This is a festive occasion to honor Mary, Mother of our Church, and all mothers,” says Georgette Ane. “The Women’s Guild is 103 members strong and has hosted this celebration for many years at St. John.”

The May Crowning is held each year on Mother’s Day weekend, after the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass. After the Mass, representatives from the Women’s Guild and from other parish ministries lead the Rosary. In the past, representatives from many ministries – including the Knight of Columbus, the Kupuna Ministry, Religious Education, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – have participated.

The Rosary is followed by the crowning procession, during which the Children’s Choir sings. The procession is led by various members of the Women’s Guild.

“Each pair will represent different titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Immaculate Conception, Queen of Heaven, and Star of the Sea,” Georgette says. “Each person in the procession carries a bouquet of flowers, which they present to our Blessed Mother Mary, and then they crown her with a *haku lei*.”

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# Honoring Our Lady at the *May Crowning* continued from page 7

“It’s a prayerful time, and it’s very spiritual and respectful to honor her,” she adds. “And as we honor Blessed Virgin Mary, we honor our own mothers, especially during this Mother’s Day weekend. Many of us have our own moms in heaven, so it’s a very meaningful and touching devotion.” After the procession, everyone gathers together for a meal and for fellowship.

“It wouldn’t be complete without food!” Georgette says. “In the past, we have done things like an international buffet. This year, we will be having luau with Hawaiian food and Hawaiian entertainment. Everyone is invited. It always builds good camaraderie among the parish members. It’s just a good, relaxing time for everyone to celebrate and share their love for the Blessed Mother of God.”



*This year’s May Crowning will be held on Saturday, May 13 after the 5 p.m. Mass.  
All are invited to honor Our Lady with their fellow parishioners,  
and are encouraged to bring a Hawaiian dish to share afterwards.*