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The Importance of the One Community Center

An Opportunity to Accomplish Something Great

Our campaign to obtain funds for our One Community Center Project is well underway. Many people have already made a generous commitment, but we need everyone in the community to consider how they might be able to help financially. Several parish committees have been diligently working on the One Community Center for more than a year, and it is their efforts that have brought us to this point. We thank all for their stewardship and commitment to the current and future needs of our parish.

One parish member who is excited about the project is Deb Zedalis who chairs one of the largest parish ministries, the Social Ministry Commission.

“We currently have nine teams as part of the Commission, and each team is a ministry unto itself,” Deb says. “The teams include Local Outreach; Institute for Human Services; Global Outreach; Hui O Laulima; Kupuna Kokua; Parish Health; Senior Team; Disability Team; and Prison Ministry. Each ministry serves our parish, our community our state, and the world. This is what we are called to do by Christ and by our Catholic beliefs.”

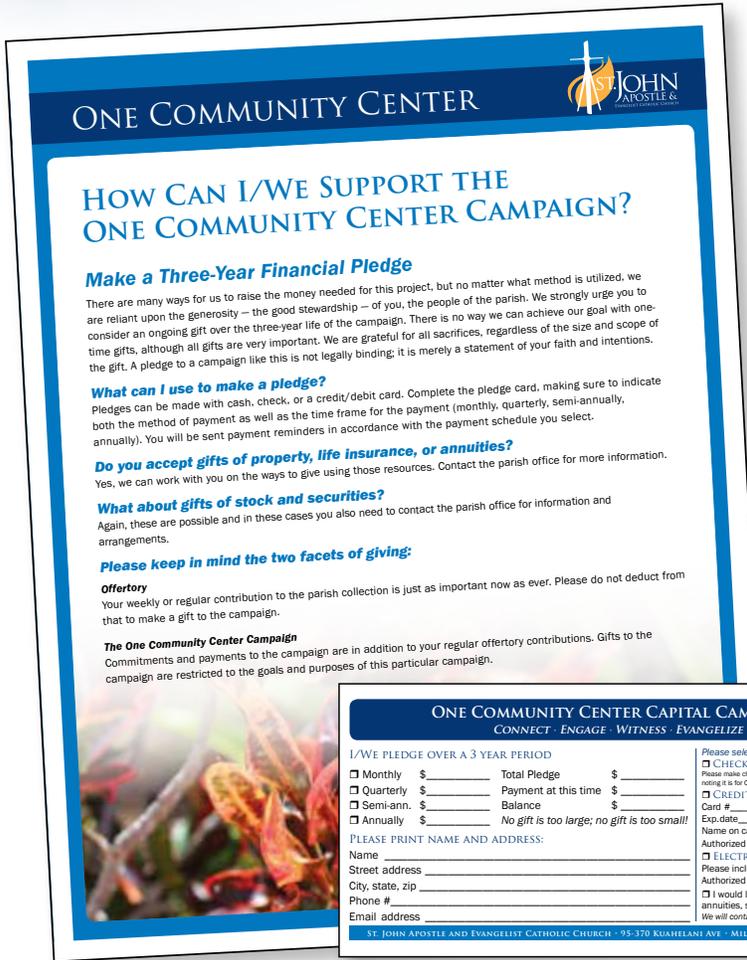
Deb was excited when she heard of the plan to build the One Community Center because it would increase possibilities for the Social Ministry Commission, as well as for the parish. Deb is proud to be a parishioner at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, and has strong feelings about the community and about the One Community Center.



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The Importance of the One Community Center

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ONE COMMUNITY CENTER

HOW CAN I/WE SUPPORT THE ONE COMMUNITY CENTER CAMPAIGN?

Make a Three-Year Financial Pledge
There are many ways for us to raise the money needed for this project, but no matter what method is utilized, we are reliant upon the generosity — the good stewardship — of you, the people of the parish. We strongly urge you to consider an ongoing gift over the three-year life of the campaign. There is no way we can achieve our goal with one-time gifts, although all gifts are very important. We are grateful for all sacrifices, regardless of the size and scope of the gift. A pledge to a campaign like this is not legally binding; it is merely a statement of your faith and intentions.

What can I use to make a pledge?
Pledges can be made with cash, check, or a credit/debit card. Complete the pledge card, making sure to indicate both the method of payment as well as the time frame for the payment (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually). You will be sent payment reminders in accordance with the payment schedule you select.

Do you accept gifts of property, life insurance, or annuities?
Yes, we can work with you on the ways to give using those resources. Contact the parish office for more information.

What about gifts of stock and securities?
Again, these are possible and in these cases you also need to contact the parish office for information and arrangements.

Please keep in mind the two facets of giving:

Offertory
Your weekly or regular contribution to the parish collection is just as important now as ever. Please do not deduct from that to make a gift to the campaign.

The One Community Center Campaign
Commitments and payments to the campaign are in addition to your regular offertory contributions. Gifts to the campaign are restricted to the goals and purposes of this particular campaign.

ONE COMMUNITY CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
CONNECT · ENGAGE · WITNESS · EVANGELIZE

I/WE PLEDGE OVER A 3 YEAR PERIOD

<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	\$ _____	Total Pledge	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly	\$ _____	Payment at this time	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-ann.	\$ _____	Balance	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	\$ _____	<i>No gift is too large; no gift is too small!</i>	

PLEASE PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS:

Name _____
Street address _____
City, state, zip _____
Phone # _____
Email address _____

Please select ONE payment method:

CHECK:
Please make check payable to St. John Apostle and Evangelist Catholic Church, raising it for One Community Center.

CREDIT CARD:
Card # _____ CV# _____
Exp. date _____
Name on card _____

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER:
Please include your voided check.
Authorized Signature _____

I would like to give a gift of property, life insurance, annuities, stocks, or securities to the campaign.
We will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.

ST. JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH • 95-370 KUAHELANI AVE • MELIANI, HI 96789 • 808-623-3332 EXT. 100

local businesses and other non-profit groups. Some of these events attract more than 200 people, but the church is our only facility, and that has major shortcomings. For one, the church is a sacred area, and we cannot have food and drink, and we are limited by the facility design. For example, a session we shared with AARP called for breakouts – that was very limiting because some people are unable to negotiate the stairs in the current parish center. The OCC will be much more conducive to being able to host and hold many other types of events.”

Other members of the Campaign Steering Committee not only personally have offered generous commitments to the project, but they also recognize its importance.

“We have a chance as a parish community to accomplish something we have wanted and planned for more than 20 years,” says Mike Browning, who chairs the Catholics Returning Home Ministry, in addition to being involved in the OCC campaign from the beginning.

“This means major changes for our excellent Preschool, but it also is something the parish badly needs and has needed,” adds Angela Bolan, who serves as the parish liaison with the Preschool.

“The idea of ‘offering up’ is very Catholic, whether it is prayer or something you have to endure,” Deb concludes. “The

idea of stewardship is one that is larger than that – it is giving so that others may receive, just as Jesus has called us. This is a time when we need to look beyond our personal or family desires and give something up for the greater good. We have to look beyond the OCC itself to what can happen within this building, which is not just the gift of money, but giving of ourselves within those walls.”

“St. John is the most generous parish I have ever experienced – I have been a member now for 10 years,” she says. “The people here give generously of their time, talent, and treasure. However, because they are so generous, sometimes it is easy for us to think that we are doing enough. I think sometimes we can be too comfortable. Our One Community Center encourages us to look again at our treasure, because this is an opportunity to reach out to our entire community and the entire island. This is a challenge for us spiritually.”

When asked to speak to the potential the OCC brings to St. John, Deb offers her perspective.

“Currently our various teams use the church as a meeting place for workshops, training, classes, and Parish Health Fairs,” she says. “We sponsor major events with other community partners like AARP, Project Dana, and

If you would like more information, or to make a commitment to the One Community Center Campaign, please contact the parish office at 808-623-3332.

A Letter From Our Pastor

The “Living Stones” of Our Parish Community

Dear Parishioners,

With joy and enthusiasm, I greet you. A few months ago, we launched our venture to construct the One Community Center, and all of you should have been offered an opportunity to make a commitment to this historic effort. It is all of you — the people of God and the people of St. John Apostle and Evangelist — who are truly the “living stones” of our parish family.

For more than 40 years, our community of believers has built the kingdom of God. After spending the last several years as your pastor, I am more motivated than ever to bring to fruition our dream of the One Community Center. The dream is, of course, dependent upon the response to our capital campaign to raise the funds needed for this important step in the life of the parish. Each week, we worship together, and as our parish has pursued stewardship as a way of life, our ministries and services have expanded accordingly.

We are blessed and enriched by the make-up of our community. The Mass is the “source and summit” from which all of our liturgical and prayer life flows, but we need to take this next step in our parish journey to plan responsibly for not only today, but tomorrow, as well.

The plans are developed. Decisions have been made, but the answer to the question as to whether we will be successful lies with you and your responses to our plea for financial support. I firmly believe that if you let faith be your guide, generosity will follow. It is your generous responses which will ensure our success. The support of every member of our parish family is imperative for us to achieve our goal.

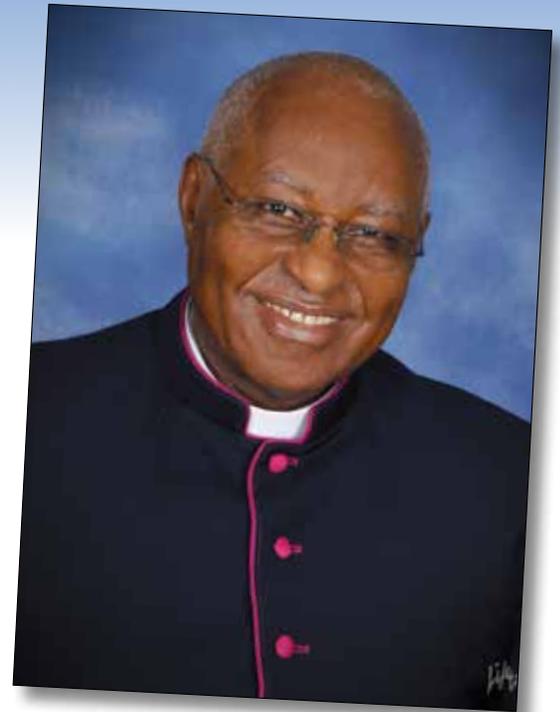
Many of you have already made a pledge, but many who have supported all of our good works in the past have yet to do so. I ask that you carefully and prayerfully consider what you can pledge over the next three years to benefit our One Community Center. I thank each of you in advance, and I thank God for giving me the privilege of serving this wonderful community. I am confident that the Lord will make sure that we will be successful and victorious in this effort.

May the Lord continue to shower His blessings on you and yours.

Gratefully in Christ,



Rev. Monsignor John Mbinda,
Pastor



“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.” Psalm 127:1

Forming God's Children: Th

How do we sustain our parish? The answer is undeniable – we must look to our youth, who are the future of our parish.

“As a catechist, you’re in touch with the young minds of the parish, you’re helping to nurture the new Church,” says Julie Quiroz-Zamora, our Director of Religious Education. “How we serve the youth and teach them to serve others is one of the greatest and most valuable things we can do for our parish.”

Laura Peeters currently serves as a catechist, preparing children to receive their First Communion, as well as working with the high school-aged youth in our Life Teen program. She began volunteering as a catechist when she herself was only in high school, assisting her father. Since then, she has served in a number of parishes in various places, always feeling a nudge from God to become involved serving His children. Having experienced faith formation from a young age, Laura is convinced of the value and importance of sharing the faith with children while they’re young.

“I think it’s so important to start at a young age, when they’re sponges,” Laura says. “They’re soaking in our religion and our beliefs.

“When I’m teaching the little kids, and they’re saying, ‘I get that!’” she adds. “And their faces light up. Just hearing them and their responses, those are the moments that I say, ‘This



Youth ministry catechists have the opportunity to share the faith with our middle and high school-aged young people through our Edge and Life Teen programs.

is why I’m teaching! This is why God calls me!”

One of the most important roles of a catechist is not only to teach children about our beliefs, but, along with their parents, to provide a witness of what it looks like to live out the faith, in everyday life.

“Catechists are called to set the example – how we live our lives, what we do, what we say is important – it makes an impression on young minds and helps form them,” Julie says. “They’re facing a lot of challenges. We have to help them be strong enough to make the right decisions.”

While parents are certainly the first and primary teachers of the faith for their children, sometimes, especially with older children, it is valuable to

have other people, especially young adults, who can help to answer their questions and model the faith.

“Sometimes, children need another adult that they feel they can speak to and relate with,” Julie says. “We, as youth ministers, are there to listen to what they have to say and also give the Church’s point of view.”

Serving as a catechist is also an opportunity to deepen your own understanding of the faith and relationship with God.

“Students will ask you questions, and sometimes you have to be honest and say, ‘I don’t know the answer, but I’ll look it up,’” Laura says. “Not only are you teaching them, but you’re also learning. As adults, we can take things for granted and go through

The Importance of Catechists

the motions, but when you're actually preparing for a class, I have to learn to be able to explain."

Julie assures parishioners that you don't have to be a "professional" in order to serve the parish as a catechist. Knowing the basics of the faith, patience with young people and an open heart are the most important traits for working in this ministry.

"Don't be afraid," Julie says. "There's nothing to be afraid of when you're leading children to our Lord. All it takes is for you to say 'yes' and we'll help you!"

"Being a catechist inspires my faith," Laura adds. "Planting that seed of faith, it reminds me of the seed that was planted in me. When you teach or are involved, being involved is watering the seed that was planted in you."

We are in special need of catechists and volunteers for the 2017-2018 school year. Please pray and consider if this is a way God may be calling you to serve the children and youth of our parish.

If you would like more information on becoming a catechist or aide, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Julie Quiroz-Zamora, at 808-623-3332, ext. 206. All catechists must go through Safe Environment training for the protection of our children and youth, as participate in catechist training, available online.



Catechists, Youth Ministers, Youth Leaders and Volunteers gathered for a group photo after our Easter Egg Hunt

thank you
A special
thank you

to those who faithfully serve our parish as catechists, in both our religious education and Edge and Life Teen (youth ministry) programs.

"I can't thank our catechists enough," says Julie Quiroz-Zamora, our Director of Religious Education, "They give their hearts and souls and they have fun doing it. I really can't thank them enough, from the bottom of my heart for all they do for the youth."

An Unforgettable Meal

The Feast of Corpus Christi

If you were to make a list of “famous people from history” to invite for dinner, there’s a good chance Jesus Christ would make the cut.

As a historical figure alone, the meal conversation would no doubt prove interesting.

Yet, the thought of spending personal time with Christ ushers in additional considerations that far exceed a mere “getting to know you” routine. Jesus Christ is the only human being in history who is also your Creator – He already knows you intimately!

You might then imagine that if Christ revealed Himself to you personally, then you would immediately love Him deeply and believe without doubt. You might think to yourself, “If I could just meet Him once, it would be easy to believe.”

There is a bit of truth in this thought. As human beings, we are affected by personal presence, and the most intense communication transpires through physical contact. Just ask the apostle, Doubting Thomas. The sight of Christ alone was not enough – Thomas required physical touch to be satisfied.

The beauty of the Gospel message is that it is universal. Just as the resurrected Christ invited Thomas to touch Him in the flesh, so too does Christ invite us – His disciples in 2017 – to meet Him physically in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

So, if you would like to share a meal with Christ, the time is here! You have already been given a perpetual, open-ended invitation to dine with Him, in His Father’s house. Through the gift of the Eucharist, we are invited to share in the eternal banquet of heaven. This belief is the incomprehensible glory of our Catholic faith.

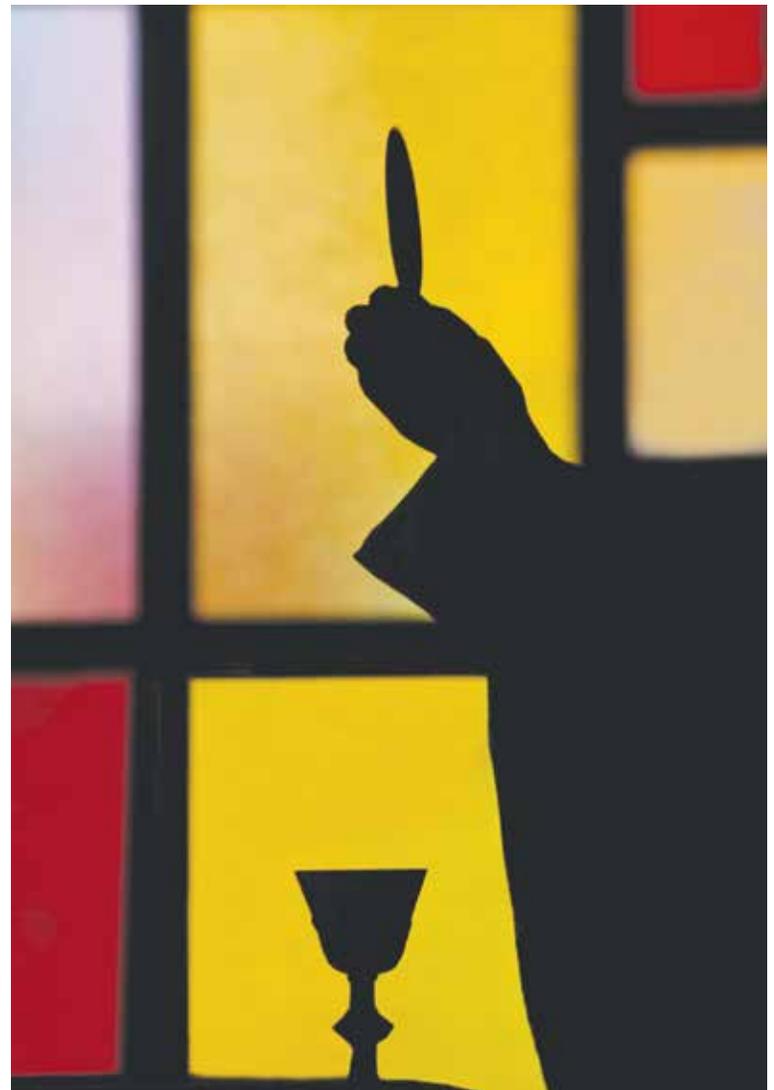
We celebrate with great joy, therefore, the night in which Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Although “re-presented” at every Mass, we commemorate this event on two special feast days of the liturgical calendar – on Holy Thursday and on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The joy of this “holy gift” cannot be adequately expressed on Holy Thursday, due to its nearness to Good Friday. Therefore, the Feast of Corpus Christi – also known as the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – is given its own day on the liturgical calendar.

Throughout the rest of the world, the Feast of Corpus Christi is normally celebrated on the Thursday following

Trinity Sunday, thereby mirroring Holy Thursday. However, the U.S. does not maintain this feast as a Holy Day of Obligation. It is considered a “moveable feast” – this year, the Feast of Corpus Christi occurs on June 15, but the celebration is transferred to the following Sunday, June 18.

On this glorious feast, take the time to thank Our Heavenly Father for the gift He bestows on us through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: “When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”
Happy feast day!



Stepping Up to Walk Our Youngsters into Faith

Our parish is calling on young people at least 16 years old, and adults who have been confirmed to say “yes!” to guiding other young Catholics in their walk to become full members of the Body of Christ.

With approximately 300 youngsters from second through 12th grade now entering their second year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday in May 2018, there is a need for sponsors willing to stand with them as they receive the third Sacrament of Initiation. The youth who are to be confirmed must



be enrolled in the Religious Education Program. The instruction include students in Religious Education from second through fifth grade, and the Youth Ministry Program for sixth through 12th grade.

“All of our parents and guardians know their children require sponsors,” says Julie Quiroz-Zamora, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry. “So, they’re looking to their child’s Baptism sponsors, a family member, or a friend who is a practicing Catholic that is true to their faith, and is willing to be responsible and walk along with the youth that is receiving the sacrament. They will be connected to them for the rest of their life. They will be that person – that mentor, that spiritual advisor – the youth

can go to besides Mom and Dad as they are faced with challenges in their life. They will be connected until death.”

If parents cannot locate a sponsor, the parish will help either find a sponsor who will provide the best fit for the youngster, or a proxy, if the parents wish, in cases where the sponsor is on the mainland or in an international setting. There will be two orientation sessions in August. Once the Confirmation preparation begins in August, the sponsors will be involved in about three meetings and retreats as well as three Family Faith Formation sessions.

“When someone becomes a sponsor, they’re strengthened and reconnected with their Catholic faith,” Julie says. “We all go to Mass, and receive the sacraments, and we’re fully aware of our faith at all times. Sometimes, we get a little lazy and the challenges of life makes it more difficult so we’re prevented from remembering what we’re called to do. They must choose whether to go to Mass or a church event or a school activity – they deal with that all the time. I hope the children know and understand that as you go through life, the first person who must be with them is our Lord.

“Success is something you can’t obtain alone,” she continues. “Your talents and your strengths all come from our Lord. These are gifts that come from God! Our world says we must strive for success and to have a career that will give me all that I want. But is that going to truly make you happy? Will it include my Lord Jesus in all we do? We must remember all things come from Him.”

As the Confirmation sponsors’ faith is strengthened, the youngsters they are mentoring on their journey will fully become one with the Church. “Confirmation will powerfully connect the child to their faith,” Julie says. “They will be in full communion with the Church, at a time when they need that to be strong in their faith as they move forward with the challenges that are out there. We look forward to providing them with the knowledge, power and strength they need to help others in the parish and the community. They will speak about their faith and evangelize to the greater community in words and actions. This is what we are called to do.”

While Julie has heard comments that some parishioners are interested in becoming sponsors, she hopes that interest will become loving action.

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Stepping Up to Walk Our Youngsters into Faith

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“We really, truly need people who are enthusiastic, and who know the purpose of being a sponsor and are ready to make that commitment, who are fully into it from the start,” Julie says.

Julie also is putting out a call for catechists, classroom aides or co-leaders to handle the expected increase in Religious Education enrollment. Volunteers are needed, too, for Youth Ministry. All must pass a background check and receive Safe Environment training.

Welcoming the Newest Members of Our Faith Family



We extend a heartfelt welcome and congratulations to the newest members of our faith family, who entered into the Catholic Church this Easter.

(First row, from left) Daniella Carrillo, Isabella Carrillo, Elizabeth Rose, Gianna Young; (second row, from left) Mia Rodrigues, Marilyn Sarmiento, Adrienne Scott, Msgr. John Mbinda, Rosalinda Gaopoa, Gene Nishikawa, Miguel Bernardo, Ellison Robinson, Fr. Norlito Concepcion; (third row, from left) Deacon Modesto Cordero, Victor Carrillo, Christopher Rose, Ian Gokan, Robert Pry, David Reynolds, Herman Gonzalez, Deacon Romeo Ganibe.

Congratulations to Our Newly Confirmed



Congratulations to our students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring, and we welcome them as they enter fully into the Catholic faith!

(Row 1, left standing) MC Zac Ramones, Rachel Sparks, Alexandria Plata, Saydee Velasco, Sara Patrick, Kaitlyn Ng, Madelaine Sarmiento, Melanie Constantino; (seated) Msgr. John Mbinda, Msgr. Very Reverend, Gary Secor, Fr. Norlito Concepcion; (row 1 right standing) Lexiss Evans, Miranda Burigsay, Sydney Quitoles, Maxine Gelacio, Caitlyn Pregana, Angelica Castro, MC Margaret Higa; (row 2, left standing) Deacon Romeo Ganibe, Kekoa Kuloloia, Joel Cleghorn, Ethan Paloma, Ethan Burigsay, Cody Villegas, Brian Sanchez; (row 2, right standing) Dylan Cuesta, Damien Santiago, Cortez Cheong, Jayden Hiu, Jason Sanchez, Lance Escobido, John Paul Houle.

Our hope is that all Confirmation sponsors will be signed up no later than the end of July. Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor will find sign-up tables outside all Masses. The Religious Education office will be open from noon to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Fridays; and from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays for sign-up. Registration forms can be downloaded from the parish website at <http://www.stjohnmililani.org>. Julie can be contacted online at jquiroz@rcchawaii.org, or at the parish office at 808-623-3332.