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March 31, 2017



Evangelization Through Dramatization: Faith in **ACT**ion on the Road

Though we Catholics are each called to go forth and “proclaim the Gospel” (Mark 16:15), our methods of evangelization often vary depending on our own personal gifts and talents. For some, evangelization is done through actual conversation, while others use acts of loving service as their channel for conveying the Gospel message. And for members of the Faith in **ACT**ion Diocesan Drama Community, evangelization is done through the art of theatrical performance.

“We are a drama community, but at the same time, it is our mission to go out and evangelize,” says program coordinator and longtime thespian Deacon Modesto Cordero. “We take the Good News of the Gospel, and we dramatize them as a way to evangelize to others. It’s a way that people can receive the message of God outside of church.”

Originally started six years ago as a parish ministry here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, Faith in **ACT**ion quickly grew so big that it was invited to become a diocesan ministry. Its purpose remains to incorporate people’s talents into the Church, using their theatrical talents to present the Good News of Christianity in a new and inviting way to others.

“It allows us Catholics to use our gifts in a truly unique way,” says Deacon Modesto. “We all have different talents and I think this is an opportunity for those people who don’t necessarily feel comfortable being lectors or a Eucharistic Minister to use their love for the arts and theater in union with their love of God. We are all called to go out to the streets and proclaim the Good News, but for some reason, we Catholics aren’t too good at that. This gives them the opportunity to do that in a way that they feel comfortable with – a way that uses their gifts and talents.”



For the members of the Faith in **ACT**ion Community, this diocesan ministry provides them with a unique opportunity to use their talents for God’s glory.

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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).

SERVE

A Letter From Our Pastor

We Are Blessed as a Church and a Nation

Dear Parishioners,

The month of July may seem like a bit of an “in-between” month. Of course, it sits in the middle of summer. During this last month of June, we shared in a number of solemnities and celebrations – these served to remind us of the incredible gifts we have received as Catholics, from the Holy Trinity to the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now, a look at the calendar shows us that all of the Sundays this month are in Ordinary Time. We know that Ordinary Time is anything but “ordinary,” even though it might seem that way – especially after a month of celebrations.

However, one thing happens this month that is certainly unique to us as Americans – Independence Day. We are Catholics, but we also are Americans, and we should be proud to be both – grateful for the gift of faith, and equally grateful for the gift of liberty we receive as American citizens.

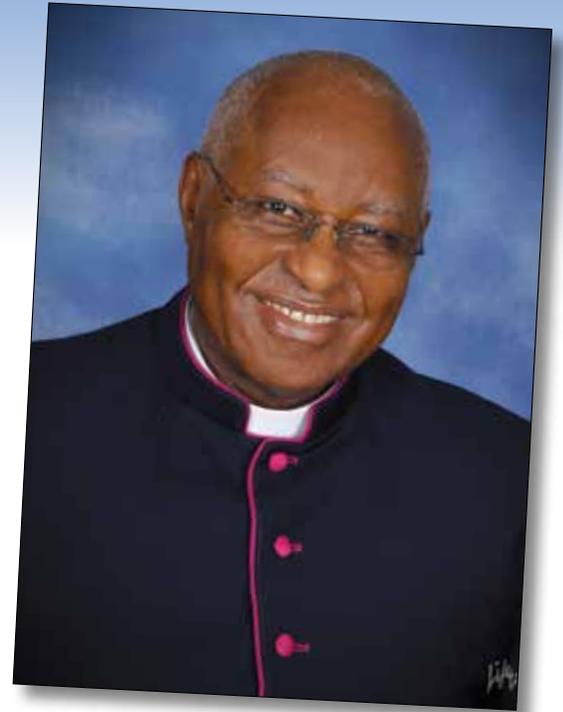
Yet, to be Catholic and American should not mean choosing one over the other. These allegiances should be

complementary. Our Catholic faith states that we need to work together as fellow citizens for the common good of everyone in this great country. Through the Constitution, our Founding Fathers guaranteed us of religious rights to contribute to our common life together.

Freedom is a special inheritance we have received, fought for by many at a great price, and it is a heritage that must be guarded – we are truly stewards of the gifts of freedom.

In 1886, just over 140 years ago, Bishop James Gibbons of Baltimore was made the second American Cardinal. He attributed the progress of the Church in America to the “civil liberty we enjoy in our enlightened republic.” He continued to say that “in the genial atmosphere of liberty, the Church blossoms like a rose.”

July is not just a time for us to celebrate – it is also a time for us to blossom. It is not a time to cease



praying or working to build the Kingdom of Christ. Rather, it is a time to work even more diligently to express our appreciation for our many gifts, and to share them with others. We are blessed – by the gifts of our faith and the gifts of freedom – and we must always remember to thank God for that.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda

Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor



A Look Back on the Celebration

We congratulate our students who received their First Communion



(Row 1, from left) Lindy Plemer, Kanoa Redoble, Ryder Loughlin, Ava Romero, Rayne Castro, Titan Dixon, Kaitlyn Napoleon, Brennan Tucay, Hope Prestosa, Alyssa Nichols, Julian Voellm; (row 2, from left) Damien Domingo, Kalena Forman, Layla Money, Cherrissalyn Gaopo'a, Paul Gardner, Maximilian Regala, Marcela Segura, Brooke Proctor, Julie Quiroz-Zamora; (row 3, from left) MC: William Domingo, Deacon Modesto Cordero, Msgr. John Mbinda, Fr. Norlito Concepcion, Deacon Romeo Ganibe.



(Row 1, from left) Joyce Guzman, Joshua Joson, Ian Chavez, Emily Fitzgerald, Aiden Sumile, Chloe Fitzgerald, Elijah Quidachay, Josiah Wright, Lewis Pugh, Laura Ann Peeters; (row 2, from left) Julie Quiroz-Zamora, Tai Resonable, Michel Gonthier, Avah Garcia, Nicholas Topinio, Kaeheiyahsesaeh Daguio, Giana Young, Sophia Nazareth, Kesewatohsaeh Daguio, Gladys Young, Rhonda Kimura; (row 3, from left) Deacon Modesto Cordero, Msgr. John Mbinda, Fr. Norlito Concepcion, Deacon Romeo Ganibe.

ation of First Communion

ommunion this spring at St. John Apostle & Evangelist!



(Row 1, from left) Julie Quiroz-Zamora, Khaylene Magana, Nakoa Fukishima, Alexis Huerta, Erin Carlos, Brock Hirota, Khaira Magana, Julissa Lopez-Sanchez, Ana Lokelani; (row 2, from left) Brandon Kennedy, Gene Lumantas, Gabriella Carrillo, Aryah Quintanilla, Alyssa Palacios, John Lumantas, Rochelle Topinio; (row 3, from left) Deacon Modesto Cordero, Msgr. John Mbinda, Fr. Norlito Concepcion, Deacon Romeo Ganibe, Damien Kennedy. (Missing from photo: Vincent Carrillo.)

Faith in ACTion on the Road *continued from front cover*

In past years, Faith in ACTion performances have been limited to large scale productions within theaters. But this summer, in an effort to evangelize more people, the troupe is taking their show on the road with their summer production, Evangelization on the Road. Starting July 11, the drama community will perform at a total of five Catholic parishes here within the Diocese of Honolulu. Each evening will include its own dynamic speaker, praise and worship, and various skits revolving around the evening's topic.

"What makes this program so unique is that every evening, we will have a different speaker, theme, band, and skits," Deacon Modesto says. "The idea is that people can go to all of them, making it kind of like a parish mission that is spread out amongst different parishes."

The first presentation will take place here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist parish on July 11, with featured speaker Dallas Carter. The following evenings will take place at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa on July 13, St. John Vianney on July 14, Our Lady of Perpetual Help on July 18, and finally at Holy Trinity on July

19. Speakers will vary from religious and ordained ministers, married couples, to single adults, all in an attempt to meet people wherever they are in their lives and spiritual journeys.

Sponsored by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Office of Worship, the Diocese of Honolulu is excited about this new method of evangelization. In fact, the Faith in ACTion community is hoping to make this a permanent summer program. We invite all parishioners to attend one or all of these evenings of faith and enrichment. And if you are looking for a way to more fully answer the call to evangelization, please consider becoming part of the Faith in ACTion Diocesan Drama Community!

"We welcome everyone," Deacon Modesto says. "When we started back in 2011, one of our publicity points was that talent is not required. If you want to be part of this and to help share the Good News, just come. We will find where your gifts lie and how best to involve you. And we just hope that parishioners come out and see us, so that we can continue doing this in the future!"

If you would like more information, or to get involved, please contact Deacon Modesto Cordero at either 808-585-3342 or mcordero@rcchawaii.org.

“Be Transformed by the Sacred Liturgy” *The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery*

In a limited way, the liturgy can be compared to a story or a film – upon a first reading or viewing, we might understand the basic outline of the narrative, yet through every subsequent encounter, the story further unfolds before us, becoming richer and more complex.

Often, inquisitive children teach us about how to understand a story or the Mass. As a child inquires about the priest’s green vestments, the foregrounded wreath or the presence of palm branches, we might pause to recall the symbolism undergirding the rich rituals of the liturgy.

There is a sense of the sacred in the liturgy, but its rituals and ceremonies can appear as empty pantomimes when divorced from their meaning. Far from empty signs, the liturgy is the celebration of the Paschal mystery, of Christ’s passion, death, resurrection and glorification by which He “accomplished the work of our salvation” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1067).

From the Greek *leitourgia*, meaning public service or worship, liturgy in the Christian tradition refers to the communal participation of the people in the work of God, and God is always present and at work in the liturgy, acting in and with the Church through the sacraments.

Annually, the Church’s liturgical year is structured around the Paschal mystery, which we observe every Sunday. We begin each year with a season of anticipating Christ’s birth, and following a celebration of Christ’s Incarnation, we gradually enter a period of preparation for the Easter Triduum, for His passion, death and Resurrection. The year closes with a period of ordinary time – a time to grow in our faith and in living out the Gospel.

Daily, the Liturgy of the Hours unifies the Church Militant in prayers said by the clergy and increasingly by the laity. As the liturgical calendar structures our year, the Liturgy of the Hours structures our day, offering us an opportunity to consecrate each present moment to Christ.



Ultimately, the liturgical life of the Church “revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the sacraments” (*CCC* 1113), for we receive God’s grace to fortify us in our spiritual lives and as His disciples through the sacraments, particularly the Holy Mass.

The Mass nurtures us spiritually, inviting us to reflect on the Paschal mystery and to lift our hearts to God as individuals and a community through spoken and sung prayer.

The Mass moves us corporeally, drawing us to sit as we listen to the Word, to stand as we unanimously profess our faith, and to kneel as the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Mass inspires us apostolically, sending us out to proclaim the Gospel and to share Christ with our brothers and sisters.

Though the “source and center” of all prayer, the liturgy and a sense of the sacred has, in some ways, become marginalized in the American Church. Once robust parishes are seeking to rebuild, but they frequently overlook the connection between the empty pews and the decentralization of the liturgy, which was underscored by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

“I am convinced that the crisis in the Church that we are experiencing today is, to a large extent, due to the disintegration of the liturgy,” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote in his autobiography, *Milestones*.

Something in the simplicity of the child’s experience of the liturgy teaches us to return to what we might call the basics of the faith – meaning a love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the sacraments and the rituals of the Church. Only through the liturgy are we nurtured on our stewardship journey and inspired to proclaim the Gospel.

As Archbishop Alexander Sample from the Diocese of Portland, Ore., writes, “If we are transformed by the sacred liturgy, then we, as believers, can help transform the culture.”

St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church

Financial Report for Period Ending March 31, 2017

	Previous Fiscal Year	PERIOD ENDING		Current Fiscal Year
	Actual 7/1/2015-03/31/2016	7/1/2016-03/31/2017 Actual	Budget	Budget 7/1/2016-6/30/2017
RECEIPTS				
Sunday Collection	700,000	669,645	698,250	948,500
BEMO	54,256	41,201		-
Candle Sales	21,091	13,868	22,500	30,000
Social Ministries	8,433	7,688	11,250	15,000
Religious Education	12,179	13,276	7,575	10,100
Occasional Offering/Donations/Other Income	3,571	34,124	32,190	42,920
Fundraising Revenue Subject to GET	2,412	10,221	8,250	11,000
Interest Income	5,060	4,927	4,575	6,100
Stewardship Development Donations	21,131	3,600	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	828,133	798,550	784,590	1,063,620
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Operations	317,157	350,969	320,310	160,576
Capital Campaign	-	31,660	-	-
Diocesan Assessment	100,008	106,506	99,901	399,604
Parish Council	-	17,395	20,000	20,000
Rectory	27,950	33,667	34,149	45,532
Property/Facilities	72,929	104,174	68,727	91,636
Liturgy	77,756	61,134	66,744	88,992
Religious Education	103,073	96,978	95,839	127,785
Social Ministry	31,157	28,981	52,862	69,900
Youth Ministry	14,657	12,953	6,259	8,345
Stewardship Development	37,755	48,203	38,437	51,250
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	782,442	892,620	803,228	1,063,620
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	45,691	(94,070)	(18,638)	-
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED DONATIONS				
Stewardship Development	21,131	2,290		
OCC Building Fund Collection	9,134	278,890		-
Subtotal of Current Year Donations	30,265	281,180		
Less: Expenses (Net Assets Released to Oper.)	-			
TEMP. RESTRICTED DONATIONS - NET	30,265	281,180		
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	75,956	187,110		

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.



Fr. Greg Paffel, Retreat Leader



Discerning God's Invitation



The Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship

2017 STEWARDSHIP RETREAT

Strengthen existing friendships and form new ones at the 2017 Stewardship Retreat. This year, all adults are invited to gather for a parish-wide recollection about our journey into Stewardship and the value of ongoing faith enrichment in growing as disciples of Jesus. This on-site retreat will be led by Fr. Greg Paffel, a recognized authority and national presenter on stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP RETREAT AGENDA

- July 28** **Opening Session:** Stewardship - the Parish's Mission at 7:00 p.m.
Closing Evening Prayer at 9:00 p.m.
- July 29** Lively sessions beginning with morning Mass at 8:00 a.m.
Fellowship with breakfast following Mass
Second Session: Hospitality
Third Session: Prayer
Light and quick Lunch around Noon
Final Session: Formation and Service
Closing Commissioning at 2:00pm

Come as we grow together as disciples of Our Lord.
To RSVP or if you have questions, call Regan or Mila Ramos at 425-736-9204 (Regan)
or 425-890-8377 (Mila) or email reganmila@yahoo.com.
There is no cost to attend.

Fr. Greg Paffel is currently the pastor of three vibrant Catholic parishes in the Diocese of St. Cloud: St. Alexius, Our Lady of the Angels, and St. Paul's. He is a graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He twice served with the National Evangelization Team (NET), spent time with the college ministry of St. Paul's Outreach, and assisted with Steubenville Youth Conferences. Some of Fr. Greg's goals for the 15 years of his priesthood have been to lead people into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to help them become more involved in parish life, and to just simply remind everyone how good they are. When he gets a little time to himself you might see him bicycling, motorcycling, paddling a kayak, or playing his guitar. But the most enjoyable time is when Fr. Greg spends time before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST