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# Parishioner's Eagle Scout Project Beautifies Parish During Construction

A mural paying homage both to a beloved tree, as well as Catholic values, has been the Eagle Scout project for parishioner Brensen Manding.

Brensen is a high school junior and a member of St. John Troop 144.

The mural decorates the 71-foot wooden barrier that was erected facing the church lanai at the construction site for the One Community Center that is due for completion by Christmas. Unfortunately, the tree had to be cut down.

Brensen and a crew of helpers have been painting the mural tree and flowing leaves in acrylic paint that parishioners have donated. Work began the day after Christmas and was expected to finish in late January or early February.

Continual rain that began after the project got underway meant that Brensen had to acquire tarps to cover the work area.

"It got really rainy, so I had to make sure the area was protected," he says. "We set out tarps and we continued painting. To me, it was just another part of the project and I'm responsible for it. It was just another thing to do."

Highlights of the mural are the tree with leaves flowing from the trunk. Brensen has painted some of the leaves with the words "engage," "connect," "witness" and "evangelize."

"I thought the tree was very appropriate for the church," he says. "The details are the words, as I thought the tree represents those values."

Other highlights for the mural include handprints placed by our preschool students.



*Brensen Manding prepares the outline for his mural that is being painted on the construction barrier wall at the One Community Center site.*

*continued on back cover*

## *Stewardship*

# **The Church is More than a Building**

## *It is Our Spiritual Home*

**W**here do you go to church? We've all answered that question hundreds of times before. But have you ever stopped to think about what it truly means?

"I go to our parish," is the usual response, and rightly so, because we do "go to" the church to celebrate Mass together. But as Catholics and as stewards of God's gifts, the Church is much more than a building within which we worship. The Church, as we understand it, is the universal body of believers, the society that Christ established to help us grow in holiness, to bring us closer to Him through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and to lead the world to the truth.

Before Jesus ascended to the Father, He commissioned the disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20). That is the Church's mission in the world today — to make disciples of all nations, to bring all men to Christ.

Our parish plays a key part in that. As members of our parish, we are local representatives of the universal Church. Together, as members of this parish family, we work to carry out the Church's mission on a local level. We worship the Lord at Mass, offering Him our praise and thanksgiving, and then we go forth on a mission to make disciples — to encourage our fellow parishioners in their lives of faith and to bring unbelievers into knowledge of the truth.

In addition to being a "local representation of the universal Church," the parish is much like a family. We are communal beings, and we are created to live with others. So, as Catholics, we are members of the Church and, on a more immediate level, of the parish. As such, we gather together for the Eucharistic meal and we grow in faith together throughout the week, supporting one another through our participation in many parish ministries, through prayer, and through the friendships that many of us share.

In a letter written to parish priests throughout the nation, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops explained the important place of the parish in the lives of Catholic faithful: "The parish is a privileged place to announce the Word of God. It includes a variety of forms and each of the faithful is called to take an active part, especially with the witness of a Christian life and the explicit proclamation of the Gospel to non-believers to lead them to the faith, or to believers to instruct them, confirm them and encourage them to a more fervent life."

So, we ought to feel truly blessed to be a part of this parish family. We ought to make a conscious effort to be actively involved, to build relationships with our fellow parishioners and to celebrate the Mass together as often as possible — most especially every Sunday. We are then bound to grow closer to others, to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ. Then, together as a parish family, we are bound to proclaim the Gospel to others, inviting them to a life of discipleship, thereby, building the kingdom of God.



# Answering the Call for Lent

Dear Parishioners,

This month, as we begin our Lenten journey to Easter, every one of us should ask ourselves, “What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ and how well am I living that out each day?”

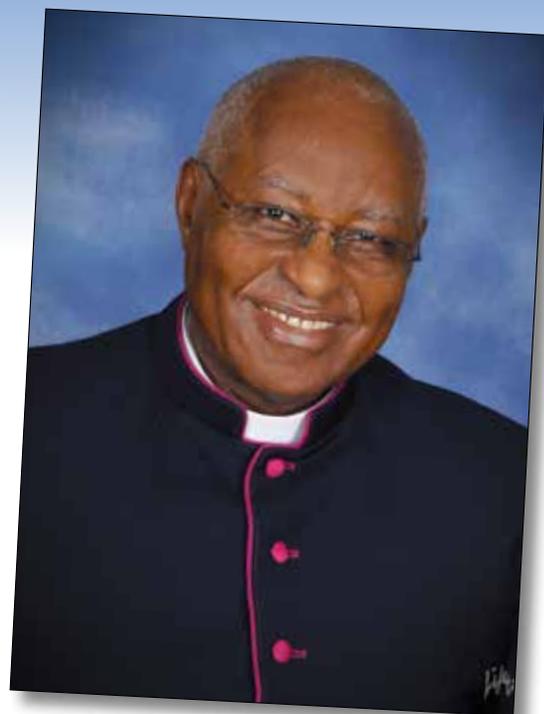
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops addressed what it means to be a disciple when they wrote their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. “Who is a Christian disciple?” the USCCB asked and, in turn, they also provided the answer, “One who responds to Christ’s call, follows Jesus, and shapes his or her life in imitation of Christ’s” (9). So, as disciples of Jesus Christ, it is essential that we consider the true meaning of that answer.

The first step in the Christian life is responding to Jesus’ call. Jesus invites every person to develop a relationship with Him. But obviously, not every person is a Christian disciple. Some people are too busy to even hear that invitation or don’t make the effort to recognize it. Others make a conscious decision to reject the call because it demands that they can no longer place themselves at the center of their lives.

On the other hand, for those of us who make an affirmative response to Christ’s call, the most meaningful life possible awaits us, both now and into eternity. However, saying “yes” to Jesus has consequences that affect the rest of our lives.

The first consequence of becoming a disciple is that we now follow Jesus. The Gospel accounts record that when He called His disciples, they left what they were doing and followed Him. The same is true for us today. Becoming a Christian disciple does not necessarily mean that all of us will leave our present job, or enter into the consecrated life, or serve as a missionary in another country — although that might be where the journey leads you. But it does mean that we offer our work — whether as a doctor, homemaker, mechanic, farmer or teacher — to build up the Kingdom of God.

In following Jesus as His disciples, we should strive to more fully absorb His teaching and then apply it to our daily lives. As we do, we find that we attempt to imitate



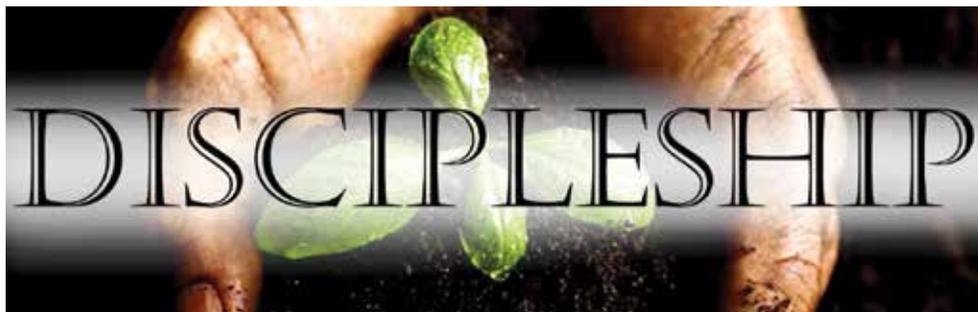
Him, treating others with the same welcoming and generous spirit. St. Peter was direct when he described how Jesus acted: “He went about doing good... for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). That’s the model for how we must live.

Discipleship leads naturally to stewardship as a way of life. The time we offer in prayer and worship will give us the strength and guidance for serving Christ. Using the skills and gifts we have to build the Kingdom will direct our offering of talent. The support of all these endeavors with our treasure will ensure that our lives as disciples and stewards are genuine.

As a Christian steward this Lent, I encourage you to reflect on the changes you can make in growing as a disciple of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda  
Pastor



## Dedicated to Children’s Education, S

**F**or many years, St. John Preschool has been an important part of our parish community. As a Catholic Montessori school, the preschool aims not just to educate, but to provide both faith and personal formation for children ages 3 through 5. While construction for the parish’s One Community Center is underway, the preschool has been temporarily moved off-campus to the neighboring Mililani Presbyterian Church, with plans to return to campus in June 2020. In the midst of this change, school leadership remains dedicated to our children and have great plans in the works for the years to come.

“The goal of the Catholic Church and of Montessori Method is to help children fulfill their God-given potential,” says Preschool Board Planning Committee Chairperson Glorilynn Manding. “St. John Preschool provides an environment with opportunities to engage in meaningful learning experiences to develop the whole child, including the child’s spiritual life. The preschool integrates Catholic teachings in their daily routines and in the references to Jesus and His teachings throughout the day.”

“The preschool is very important to what we do as a community in regards to evangelization,” says Preschool Board Chair Mike Browning. “It’s not just Montessori and it’s not just Catholic — it’s the combination that really brings it all together and makes our school special. We are part of the parish community, and at the end of the day it’s about all of us coming together.”

In addition to planning for the return of the preschool to campus in



*Preschool students participate in a Christmas parade this past year.*

2020 — which includes the renovation of the existing preschool space — the Preschool Board made some changes to increase their efforts to create a balanced budget, fundraise effectively, and to build up the relationship between the parish and the preschool.

“We are here as the pastor’s advisers, and to bring real-world experiences to the table,” Mike says. “The board used to be smaller in size, but with the tasks put before us, we needed more people. We’ve doubled the amount of people and added some with

# St. John Preschool Looks to the Future

expertise in key areas. For example, we've added two teachers, one of whom is Montessori; we've added a businessperson; we've added someone with prior school board experience, who is also a business owner.

"The board used to meet quarterly," he adds. "Now, we meet twice a month — once a month as an entire board, and we have meetings for specific board committees once a month as well. We are stepping up our game and our commitment — we realize that it's a very large and important task to make sure that the children of our preschool are well taken care of in the future."

The board also plans to create a preschool volunteer ministry at the parish, giving St. John Apostle & Evangelist parishioners an opportunity to contribute directly to the success of the school. Mike hopes that this will be the beginning of an increased relationship between the parish and preschool.

"Our school needs volunteers, and it would be great to have a



*Preschool students helped decorate the new mural.*

ministry made of parishioners who can volunteer their time and talent at the preschool," he says. "We are also planning on doing more events with the parish. For example, this year marks our 40th year, so we are planning a 40th anniversary celebration in the late summer for the entire parish community."

Both parish and preschool leadership look forward to a bright future for St. John Preschool in the years to come, as the school continues to provide a solid educational and spiritual foundation for our children.

"Both my children, now 22 and 16, attended St. John Preschool and benefited greatly from their experiences," Glorilynn says. "Even though they are very different in terms of personality and learning style, I was impressed by the way the school was able to meet their needs at their own pace, level and interest. As a mom and educator, I feel our parish preschool provides a safe and loving environment that educates the whole child through the integration of teachings from our faith, learning about community — within the preschool, home, church and larger community — and learning skills that will prepare the children for continued growth after preschool."



**ST. JOHN**  
APOSTLE &  
EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

**BUILDING A  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
COMMUNITY  
OF LIFE-LONG  
LEARNERS**

**SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC  
(MONTESSORI) PRESCHOOL**

95-370 KUAHELANI AVENUE, MILILANI, HI 96789 • (808) 744-9538

*If you would like more information about St. John Preschool, please contact the school at 808-744-9538 or the parish office at 808-623-3332.*

# The Sacrament of Reconciliation

## *Returning to the Father*

Those of us who have children know what it's like when they come to us apologetically after having done something they know is wrong. As parents, it melts our hearts, and we can't help but forgive them freely, and take them into our arms – sometimes squeezing them with tears in our eyes! At times, we may even feel closer to them than we did before the event occurred.

This, we can assume, is how God feels, being our most clement Father. In His magnanimous love, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to redeem the world, freeing it from the haunting grips of sin and death. Christ instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation through His Church to offer sinners forgiveness for the offenses they committed against God.

As the Angelic Doctor St. Thomas Aquinas writes so beautifully, “[The Sacrament of Confession is a] sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after we have sinned. In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that

he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance.”

As far as the details for the reception of this sacrament are concerned, three conditions are necessary – contrition, which is genuine sorrow for sin, together with a purpose of amendment; confession of sins without any omission; and satisfaction by means of good works. A priest is gravely bound to keeping total confidentiality for all confessions they hear.

Church law requires Catholics to confess mortal sins – the most serious kind of sins – to a priest at least once per year, and to confess them before ever receiving Holy Communion, as well. However, this is by far the minimum; Catholics are encouraged to receive the sacrament freely and frequently since it is so extremely beneficial to the health of the mind, soul and spiritual life in general.

To honor the Sacraments is to honor God and the entire Christian community. To receive the Sacraments is to live in God's love and to strengthen our love for each other. Christ, our tenderhearted, Paschal Lamb, awaits us, His beloved children, to come to Him with all of our hearts.



# St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church

## Statement of Activities vs. Budget

7/1/2018 - 12/31/2018

|   | Actual  | Budget           | Variance (\$)  | Variance (%)     |              |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b> |   |                  |                |                  |              |
| <b>Income</b>                             |   |                  |                |                  |              |
| 40000                                     | OFFERTORY COLLECTION                            | 464,930          | 464,825        | 105              | 0%           |
| 42000                                     | OTHER REGULAR INCOME                            | 33,092           | 38,350         | (5,258)          | -14%         |
| 45000                                     | REVENUE SUBJECT TO GET                          | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
| 47000                                     | UNUSUAL (NON-SCHEDULED) INCOME                  | 6,623            | 2,100          | 4,523            | 215%         |
| 49100                                     | NET ASSETS RELEASED- OPERATIONS                 | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
| 49170                                     | LAND & BUILDING VALUATIONS                      | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
| 49200                                     | NET ASSETS RELEASED-CAPITAL PRJ                 | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
|   | <i>Unauthorized Income</i>                      | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
|   | <b>Total Income</b>                             | <b>504,645</b>   | <b>505,275</b> | <b>(630)</b>     | <b>0%</b>    |
| <b>Expense</b>                            |   |                  |                |                  |              |
| 50000                                     | EMPLOYMENT COSTS                                | 144,023          | 148,613        | (4,590)          | -3%          |
| 51000                                     | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES                           | 34,716           | 47,343         | (12,627)         | -27%         |
| 51500                                     | INSURANCE                                       | 24,333           | 21,336         | 2,997            | 14%          |
| 51700                                     | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT                          | 4,260            | 8,740          | (4,480)          | -51%         |
| 52000                                     | SUPPLIES AND OTHER SERVICES                     | 89,279           | 86,877         | 2,402            | 3%           |
| 52900                                     | FUNDRAISING EXPENSES                            | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
| 53000                                     | REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE                         | 28,542           | 33,550         | (5,008)          | -15%         |
| 54000                                     | UTILITIES                                       | 25,369           | 24,111         | 1,258            | 5%           |
| 55000                                     | CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS                   | 92,241           | 90,606         | 1,635            | 2%           |
| 56000                                     | INTEREST EXPENSE                                | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
| 57000                                     | TAXES   | (9)              | 480            | (489)            | -102%        |
| 58000                                     | DEPRECIATION                                    | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
|   | <i>Unauthorized Expense</i>                     | -                | -              | -                | 0%           |
|   | <b>Total Expense</b>                            | <b>442,754</b>   | <b>461,656</b> | <b>(18,902)</b>  | <b>-4%</b>   |
|   | <b>Total Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b> | <b>61,891</b>    | <b>43,619</b>  | <b>18,272</b>    | <b>42%</b>   |
| <b>Other Income/Expense</b>               |   |                  |                |                  |              |
| <b>Other Income</b>                       |   |                  |                |                  |              |
| 70000                                     | TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS                   | 1,403,576        | -              | 1,403,576        | 0%           |
|   | <b>Total Other Income</b>                       | <b>1,403,576</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>1,403,576</b> | <b>0%</b>    |
|   | <b>Total Other Income/Expense</b>               | <b>1,403,576</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>1,403,576</b> | <b>0%</b>    |
|   | <b>Total Changes in Net Assets</b>              | <b>1,465,468</b> | <b>43,619</b>  | <b>1,421,849</b> | <b>3260%</b> |

### Temporarily Restricted Assets:

|                                  |                  |          |                  |           |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Other Donation - Stewardship     | 1,080            | -        | 1,080            | 0%        |
| Grant Funds                      | 6,000            | -        | 6,000            | 0%        |
| Building Repairs & Maintenance   | 26,787           | -        | 26,787           | 0%        |
| OCC Building - Capital Campaign  | 1,369,834        | -        | 1,369,834        | 0%        |
| Prior Year Temp Rest Items Spent | (125)            | -        | (125)            | 0%        |
|                                  | <b>1,403,576</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>1,403,576</b> | <b>0%</b> |

## Eagle Scout Project *continued from front cover*

In choosing the mural for his Eagle project, Brensen wanted to make the construction area more attractive. The project also reflects his interest in art that he has had since he was a youngster.

“The main intent of this project was to beautify the church and to make sure the construction of the One Community Center does not take away from the worship space,” Brensen says. “If there was no mural, the construction site would be blocked off by a dust barrier. This made me think about creating a mural in place of a dust barrier, since it would visually enhance the church grounds. This project also provided an opportunity to promote youth involvement. With myself and others from the Youth Ministry, Scout troop and preschool contributing to this project, we are able to show another way the youth give back and participate in the community. Also, the preschool’s involvement gives the children a chance to be a part of the campus, since they have been temporarily moved to another location for construction.”

As the painting has progressed, many parishioners have commented positively. Many are asking what will happen to the mural once the construction is completed. Although no plans have been set for the mural, Brensen believes it has been serving an important role not only for our church, but also for his own personal journey.

“This project is a good way for me to serve the church,” he says. “I enjoy art and design so painting a mural for the church, I feel, would be good a way to use my interests to give back to the community. This project is a large milestone for me because it’s my Eagle project for Scouts. It took a lot of planning and getting things approved. This was also a new experience for me since I have never painted a surface this large before. I have some experience with painting and design from school, but this project was a bigger challenge. It was a great learning experience for me. I learned more about planning and how I can serve the church community. I enjoyed doing this project and I hope it benefits the community as much as I intended.”



*Brensen Manding and his crew worked on the mural under tarps when the rain began after Christmas.*



*Brensen Manding chose the tree for his mural subject in homage to a tree that was cut down for the construction project. The mural is his Eagle Scout project.*

*“It was a great learning experience for me. I learned more about planning and how I can serve the church community. I enjoyed doing this project and I hope it benefits the community as much as I intended.” — Brensen Manding*