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Our Parish Pastoral Council Extends Thanks to Cory Lindo and Welcomes Deb Zedalis

Last November, Most Reverend Larry Silva, the Bishop of Honolulu, released a document emphasizing the importance of Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC) and detailing new requirements for how these councils are to function in advising the pastor and supporting the growth of parishes in fulfilling their missions.

Here at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, the PPC is being revised in accordance with the directive from Bishop Larry.

While looking forward to the changes and growth ahead, we look back on the past four years, with gratitude for the dedication of our outgoing Chair of the PPC, Cory Lindo, who has served since July 2015.

Cory was also part of the Leadership Advisory Council, which worked to put together the first five-year parish plan, with one of the primary focuses being the restructuring of the previous Pastoral Council and the building of the One Community Center.

“It was all part of the plan to become a spirit-led parish, to lead in evangelization and stewardship in the vicariate and for the diocese,” Cory says. “In the past, pastors had a PPC but it was more of a top-down model, but this one was different. With this one, the idea was to hear more of what the people in the pews were saying.”



(From left) Deb Zedalis, Msgr. Mbinda and Cory Lindo have worked together to ensure that our Parish Pastoral Council is meeting the needs of our parish and community.

CHOSEN TO DO HIS WILL

The Feast of St. Anne — July 26



Did you know that St. Anne is the patron saint of miners? In medieval times, the Virgin Mary and Jesus were often compared to precious metals of silver and gold. Hence, the lives that came from the womb of St. Anne made her the source of precious riches.

Unlike Mary, St. Anne was not conceived without sin — but nevertheless, she would one day raise the Mother of God. That’s a pretty big deal! What was it about St. Anne that prompted God to give her such a significant role in the history of salvation? There’s no way to know for sure, but there is one thing we can definitely say about St. Anne — God uses those who put themselves at His service, and that is precisely what St. Anne did.

Not much is mentioned about St. Anne in the Bible, but her name derives from the longer name “Hannah,” or the Hebrew word for “grace.” We understand that, having believed herself to be barren for 20 years, an angel appeared to Anne and told her that she would soon have a daughter that she should name Mary.

When Mary was finally born, after many years of frustration and infertility on her parents’ part, Anne did

just as she promised — she dedicated Mary to the Lord, and raised a holy woman who would mother Christ Himself!

Early Christians are said to have been very intrigued by the story of Jesus’ grandmother and, around the year 550, erected a church in Jerusalem where St. Anne, her husband, Joachim, and Mary are said to have lived.

Although we do not know much more about St. Anne, we can assume that she was a very holy woman based upon the woman her daughter, Mary, grew to be. Anne was the one from whom Mary learned to be a mother. She was the one from whom Mary learned to serve God. She was the one who instilled in Mary the confidence and faith to say “yes” to God — “May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

There is no doubt that St. Anne was a humble, holy woman. She was given a great gift — a child — who she readily gave back to God. And, thanks to her faith-filled gratitude to God for His gift, Mary opened her heart to the will of God, and became the mother of Christ.

Talk about stewardship in action!

A Letter From Our Pastor

Remembering America is a Gift from God

Dear Parishioners,

We're all familiar with the song "America the Beautiful." Many of us share the feelings that inspired Katharine Lee Bates when she composed it as a poem.

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

Katharine Bates drew her inspiration from her experiences during the summer of 1893. An English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she went to teach summer school at Colorado College, necessitating a journey across the country. The trip's highlight came when she reached the pinnacle of Pikes Peak and could gaze upon range after range of the Rocky Mountains on one side and the expanse of the Great Plains on the other.

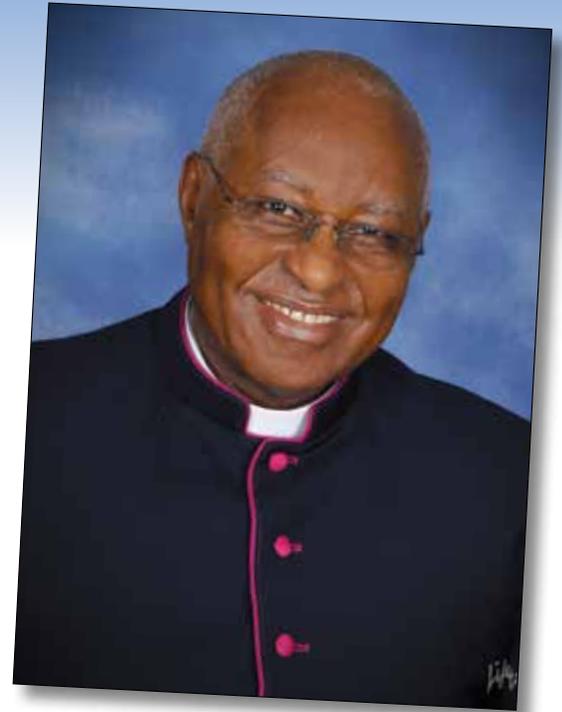
Moved by the vistas around her and the varied features of America she had seen, an idea for a poem and some of its words formed in her mind atop the mountain. That night, back in her hotel room, she completed the poem.

I think the reason for the popularity of "America the Beautiful" is that it combines several themes into one coherent whole. The beauty and immensity of America's natural creation, the rich abundance of our

harvests, and the recognition of God's generosity are woven together. The final product forms a hymn of thanksgiving for our land that goes beyond national pride to prayer, for God is the spiritual source for all the goodness we have.

I think it's a suitable theme for July, the month we celebrate Independence Day, our national holiday. Thankfulness, after all, is the basis of stewardship, the recognition that we've been given all we have. We're then responsible to the Giver for the use we make of His gifts.

The gifts we celebrate are manifold. Some are of a spiritual nature — our salvation by Christ and the sacraments, for example. Others are in the natural order, such as the beauties of creation and abundant harvests. Still others relate to social relationships, like families, friends and national life. Whatever the class



of these gifts, God is their ultimate source, and they are blessings.

Let us then receive these gifts — the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us — with thanksgiving. Let us offer praise to the Father of mercies for them, and let us use them in His service.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda
Pastor



Our Parish Pastoral Council Extends Thanks to Cory

Cory has seen the impact of stewardship in the parish over the course of his time serving on the PPC.

“The number of ministries grew from 35 and we’re now at 61,” Cory says. “Getting the parishioners involved was a really big thing in the spirit of stewardship — of time, talent and treasure. More people are volunteering for ministries. It’s been very successful.”

Cory has also found that serving as the PPC Chair has been an opportunity to deepen his own faith.

“It was my faith that got me to do this,” he says.

“If God gave you talent to do something, you need to share the talent. My wife always says she does not want to be at the pearly gates and for St. Peter to say, ‘We had you pegged for doing so much more than you actually did.’ She wants God to say, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant.’ I feel the same way.”

With Cory’s time of leadership coming to a close, we look forward to welcoming Deb Zedalis as the new chair of our PPC, beginning July 1, 2019. Deb has been a parishioner at St. John’s for the past 12 years and served in a number of ways, including as a member of the choir, the Chair of Social Ministry, the Chair of Adult Faith Formation, and on the PPC. She has also served on parish pastoral councils both on the mainland and in Europe.

“Deb has been really concentrating on the new norms of the diocese, making sure our new PPC is consistent with the bishop’s norms,” Cory says. “Deb has done great work in putting the plan together of how we’re going to approach this, coming up with a new paradigm of what the PPC should look like.”

The timing of this transition in leadership is ideal, as we come upon the close of our first five-year parish plan in 2020, as well as prepare for a new Pastor next summer, with Msgr. Mbinda leaving St. John’s.

“This is the perfect time to look at where we are, and where we want to be, because we have to revise in accordance with the bishop’s new norms,” Deb says.

In order to give the current and incoming members of the PPC, as well as other parish leadership, an opportunity to plan and discuss the direction of the

parish, SJAE hosted an off-site meeting this past March.

“I’ve never seen people so focused and so intent,” Deb says. “We made it like a retreat. All of it focused on our role as servants.”

“I do believe the Holy Spirit was there, because we got so much accomplished,” she adds. “The purpose of the PPC is pastoral planning and creating a vision for the future of the parish.”

Deb hopes to help the PPC refocus on the importance of prayer and deepening spirituality, as the best foundation for guiding the parish.

“Our service should be for our own personal spiritual development and the spiritual development of our parish,” Deb says. “That would be my goal, that we would all grow spiritually and help all those who are ministering to see that ministry in terms of

spiritual growth for themselves, and the people they serve, inside our church and outside.”

One of the ways in which the PPC hopes to grow in the coming year is through increasing the avenues of feedback from parishioners, through town hall meetings,

“When asked to serve, we should discern, ‘Do I have what’s needed — the time, talent and treasure? Is this where the Holy Spirit wants me to go? Can I improve my own spiritual life and can I be Christ to others in this role?’ None of us ever feel ‘up to it.’ Every day has to be a prayer, asking, ‘Lord, help me to discern what You want.’”

— Deb Zedalis

Cory Lindo and Welcomes Deb Zedalis *continued from front cover*

parish surveys, and making the members of the PPC more visible and accessible to the entire parish.

“We want to have communication, up and down, so everyone knows what’s happening, as much as possible, and for the PPC to receive input from parishioners too,” Deb says.

“We listen to the voices in the pews,” Cory adds. “Sometimes parishioners tell us, ‘I don’t like what you’re doing.’ I ask, ‘What do you suggest we do instead?’ Tell us what you think we should be doing and the leadership team will discuss it.”

In addition, the PPC is working to increase our communication efforts and ensure all of our PPC teams’ activities are coordinated and well communicated to those we are serving. “It’s truly the Holy Spirit encouraging us in the way we need to go,” Deb says. “It’s really amazing.”

Both Cory and Deb encourage their fellow parishioners to become more active and involved in the parish, both through service and sharing their thoughts with the PPC.

Cory says, “When you’ve got extra time and talent, please get involved. Talk with one of the members of the PPC or ministry leaders and begin sharing your talents.”

“When asked to serve, we should discern, ‘Do I have what’s needed — the time, talent and treasure? Is this where the Holy Spirit wants me to go? Can I improve my own spiritual life and can I be Christ to others in this

role?’” Deb says. “None of us ever feel ‘up to it.’ Every day has to be a prayer, asking, ‘Lord, help me to discern what You want.’”

Cory is grateful for those who have collaborated with him over the years.

“Thank you, thank you to everyone who has communicated and had discussions (both pro and con) with the members of the PPC - the discussions have been greatly appreciated,” he says. “We’ve enjoyed the discussion and changes have been made as a result of those discussions. I believe things are only going to get better.” Deb hopes that parishioners will continue to share their thoughts with the PPC.

“I want people to talk with me or write to me, or call me — I’m willing to take any comments, I’m always glad to talk with people,” she says. “I also want to ask everyone to pray for us every day. Pray for our church. Pray that we hear and do the will of God, and in hearing and doing the will of God, when prompted by the Holy Spirit, we serve in whatever capacity we can.

“At the end of my time as Chair, I hope that we have grown spiritually and that we have improved communication with all parishioners so we are truly representing everyone,” she adds. “We are so blessed in this parish. This is the best parish I’ve ever been in, in my life. I hope our parishioners feel our parish helps them grow spiritually and that they feel as a member of our parish, that they are seen and loved and they count.”

Parishioners are encouraged to assist the PPC by voicing their opinions at the upcoming Town Hall Meetings, or through the parish survey, which will be conducted in September.

For more information about the role of the Parish Pastoral Council, or if you have questions or concerns, please contact incoming Chair Deb Zedalis

at 808-348-2973 or dzedalis@hawaii.rr.com.

Celebrating the Ordination of Fr. Romple Emwalu



*On May 17, Fr. Romple Emwalu was ordained to the priesthood,
and he celebrated his first Mass at St. John on May 18.*

*Our St. John Apostle & Evangelist community — Fr. Romple Emwalu's
home parish — extends our heartfelt congratulations!*



For Keola Cleghorn, Eagle Scout Project Clears Paths to Prayer

Although now all that is needed to complete his Eagle Scout project is paperwork, Keola Cleghorn has been able to make prayerful visitations much easier at the outdoor Stations of the Cross at the Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit Benedictine Monastery north of the Mokulēia Forest Reserve.

The project involved the installation of stairs and clear pathways to the Stations to make access much easier for those who come to pray. Keola chose the project after he visited the site and saw firsthand the conditions at the Stations.

“I went up with one of our Sunday School classes for a hike, and while we were there I saw that some of the Stations of the Cross were harder to reach,” he says. “They also needed a lot more work done to make the area more presentable.”

The project included putting in pathways and stairs to reach the benches resting at each Station. Weeds and high grass were cleared from the pathways, as well.

Keola wasn't working alone, however — members of his Scout Troop 144 and the Knights of Columbus Council helped with the project. Work began on March 9 and was completed April 13.

Keola was able to buy materials for the project thanks to donations from various organizations and the stores themselves.

The major obstacle encountered was just getting the materials to the site.

“We also were moving boulders out of the way,” Keola says. “We actually got an excavator up there to do that.”

Besides improving the access to the Stations, Keola found his own faith growing clearer as he worked.

“Each day I worked on the Stations of the Cross my faith increased, I grew more attached to them and learned a lot more about them, as well,” he says.

And now that the work has been completed?

“I'm feeling mostly relief, but also great satisfaction,” he says.

Now that his Eagle Scout project is completed, Keola will be looking ahead to an exciting summer and the future beyond. He graduated from high school this spring, and his troop is planning a backpacking trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. From there, Keola will be off to college, where he plans to major in biological engineering.



Reworking the landscape and creating walkable paths and accessible benches to the Stations of the Cross was done by Keola Cleghorn, as well as members of his Scout Troop and the Knights of Columbus.

“Each day I worked on the Stations of the Cross my faith increased, I grew more attached to them and learned a lot more about them, as well.”

— Keola Cleghorn



ST. JOHN APOSTLE & EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Statement Of Activities vs. Budget

7/1/2018 - 3/31/2019

		Actual	Budget	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets					
Income					
40000	OFFERTORY COLLECTION	670,258	692,825	(22,567)	-3%
42000	OTHER REGULAR INCOME	47,906	60,200	(12,294)	-20%
45000	REVENUE SUBJECT TO GET	-	-	-	0%
47000	UNUSUAL (NON-SCHEDULED) INCOME	9,996	3,150	6,846	217%
49100	NET ASSETS RELEASED- OPERATIONS	-	-	-	0%
49170	LAND & BUILDING VALUATIONS	-	-	-	0%
49200	NET ASSETS RELEASED-CAPITAL PRJ	-	-	-	0%
	Total Income	728,159	756,175	(28,016)	-4%
Expense					
50000	EMPLOYMENT COSTS	218,965	222,857	(3,892)	-2%
51000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	54,156	61,671	(7,515)	-12%
51500	INSURANCE	24,333	21,336	2,997	14%
51700	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	16,539	17,250	(711)	-4%
52000	SUPPLIES AND OTHER SERVICES	146,903	120,478	26,425	22%
52900	FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	-	-	-	0%
53000	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	37,118	50,326	(13,208)	-26%
54000	UTILITIES	38,745	36,171	2,574	7%
55000	CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS	139,096	135,909	3,187	2%
56000	INTEREST EXPENSE	-	-	-	0%
57000	TAXES	291	870	(579)	-67%
58000	DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	0%
	Total Expense	676,147	666,868	9,279	1%
	Total Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	52,011	89,307	(37,296)	-42%
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
71120	Stewardship donations	1,380	-	1,380	0%
71122	Grant Funds	8,110	-	8,110	0%
71123	Building & Maintenance Collection	39,525	-	39,525	0%
71150	OCC - Capital project pledges and cash	1,562,805	-	1,562,805	0%
	Total Other Income	1,611,820	-	1,611,820	0%
	Total Other Income/Expense	1,611,820	-	1,611,820	0%
	Total Changes in Net Assets	1,663,831	89,307	1,574,524	1763%

In fulfillment of our stewardship virtues of accountability and transparency, the Parish Finance Council present this financial statement. All questions may be addressed to the Finance Council.