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# Our Parish CARA Survey

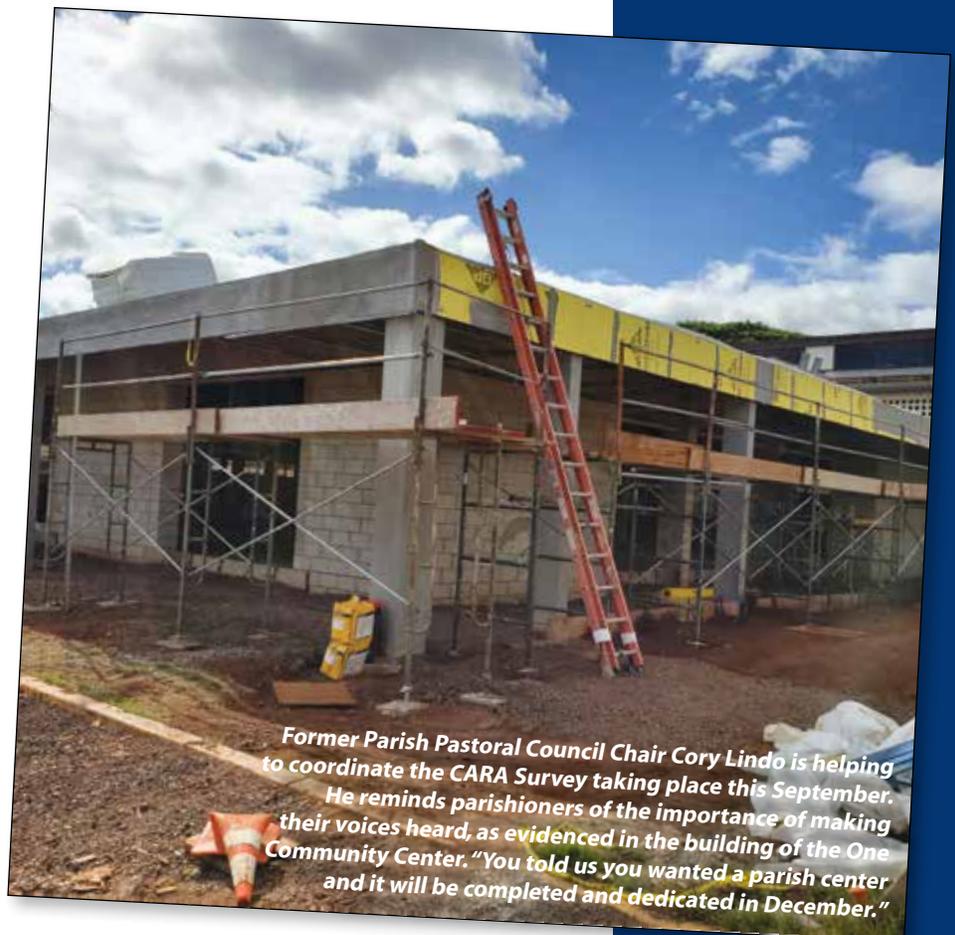
*Providing a Voice to Parishioners in the Pews*

**A**s we complete the term of our first Five-Year Pastoral Plan, we look forward to evaluating our accomplishments and identifying new priorities and goals for the next five years. In order to do this, we will be participating in a Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) survey during the month of September. CARA is a national non-profit affiliated with Georgetown University assisting parishes across the U.S. In the last 20 years, CARA has conducted Parish Life Surveys at over 900 U.S. Catholic parishes.

“Msgr. John values the sense of the faithful, that is, the voices of the parishioners in the pews,” says Cory Lindo, parishioner and former St. John Apostle & Evangelist Parish Pastoral Council chair. “What better way to get the parishioners’ input than to conduct a survey in the pews? With a survey in the pews everybody can participate.”

“When you mail a survey to a house, one person fills it in, and you get the sense of that one person. Often times the survey is not returned,” Cory says. “A survey in the pews allows participation by more people

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*Former Parish Pastoral Council Chair Cory Lindo is helping to coordinate the CARA Survey taking place this September. He reminds parishioners of the importance of making their voices heard, as evidenced in the building of the One Community Center. “You told us you wanted a parish center and it will be completed and dedicated in December.”*



## Back to the Basics: Parenting 101

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It's back-to-school time again.

Parents are scrambling to unearth last year's backpack, purchase a mountain of school supplies, and find the perfect lunchbox that won't become a fading fad a few weeks after school begins.

Yet, these seemingly menial tasks are important — the role of parents in education is vital to classroom success. Studies reveal that increased parental involvement directly correlates to increased academic achievement.

Our role as parents, therefore, is crucial. We take the education of our children seriously and don't hesitate to drop everything to review spelling words, check homework or explain a math concept — not to mention the high volume of energy we exert washing school clothes, finding school shoes, making lunches, and carting children back and forth.

All of this is done in hopes of academic success and future security.

However, in light of these efforts, it is also important to examine what we as parents do for our children's spiritual formation. Many years ago, as we held our children at the baptismal font, we promised to "accept the responsibilities of Christian parenthood" by teaching our children through "word and example."

All too often, however, the spiritual formation of our children is lost in a sea of homework and extracurricular activities. We placate ourselves with the notion that they receive adequate spiritual education during religion class at school or through the parish religious education program.

Yet, we are exceedingly misled! Religious education is intended to merely *reinforce* what is taught at home. Parents are the *primary educators* of their children and are expected to pass on the faith through "word and example."

"Parents are catechists precisely because they are parents," explains the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the *National Directory for Catechesis*. "Their role in the formation of Christian values is irreplaceable. They should speak naturally and simply about God and their faith, as they do about other matters they want their children to understand and appreciate."

Where do we begin? First and foremost, we must start with prayer and ask the Holy Family to guide our efforts in the spiritual education of our children. Bless the food before meals. Establish a simple routine of family morning and night prayer — a recitation of the "Morning Offering" upon waking, and an "Act of Contrition" at night is a sufficient starting point.

Also, keep in mind that it is impossible to pass on the faith to our children if we do not constantly pursue its knowledge and practice it ourselves. Faith formation is a lifelong process and we, as parents, are not exempt! Take advantage of the parish adult faith formation programs and seek spiritual reading — the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a great place to start.

Rest assured that your efforts will produce a firmly grounded spiritual foundation for your children.

And the reward? An unwavering hope in life eternal!

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## Getting Our Priorities in Order

Dear Parishioners,

I know that many people are not on a school year calendar. But for many of us, September brings a livelier rhythm to our schedules. Life just seems to get busier after Labor Day. Therefore, this month seems to be a good time to think about our priorities and to pray for God's guidance.

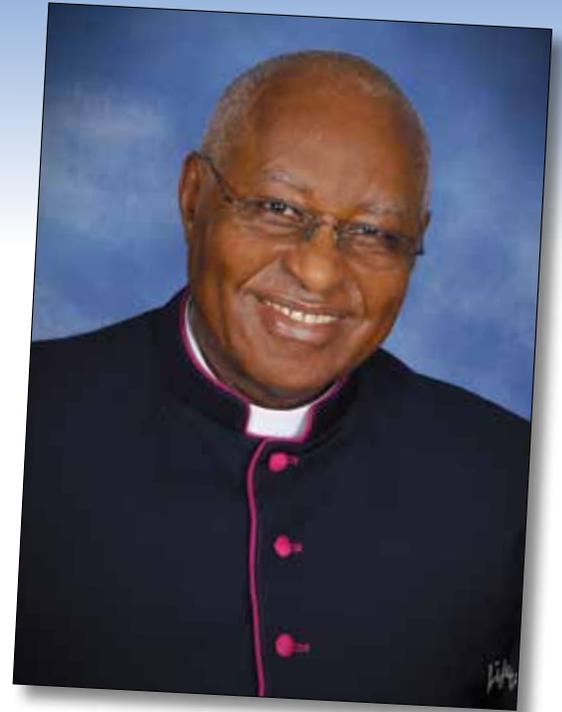
It has been said that the truly important is often pushed aside by the merely urgent. So, as you review your priorities, please make sure that you include what's really important!

First of all, be sure to include time for God, as well as for job, family and recreation. Of prime importance, make sure that Mass on Sundays is a top priority — that's the most important event of the week. In addition, reserve some time for personal Scripture study, as well as prayer with your family or a prayer group — then incorporate that into your daily and weekly routine.

There are many forces pulling at us as we decide where to use our talents. For most of us, our jobs claim the lion's share of our efforts

and sometimes threaten to engulf our whole lives. We also have responsibilities to our families and legitimate calls for service to the community — that obviously includes the Church. We have lots of areas for service right here in our own parish — religious education, music, serving as an usher, or any one of the many ministries in which you may use your talents to grow closer to God.

Finally, we have to set priorities for using our money. As Christians, we are responsible to God for the use of the financial resources He has entrusted to us — no matter if it's a lot or a little — and to make a return to God in thanksgiving. In this regard, Scripture gives us the tithe as a goal. Working toward a tithe may mean some changes in your priorities, but I can tell you from personal experience that those who have adopted this as their standard of giving experience a joy rooted in the spiritual growth that occurs as



we continually live out the “three Ts” of stewardship — time, talent and treasure.

Priorities are certainly a part of life. As you review your own priorities, especially now that many regular routines are starting up again, ask yourself how you will use the time, talent and treasure entrusted to you by God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. John S. Mbinda  
Pastor

# St. John's Catholic Preschool

## Staff and Students Ready for New School Year

### *Celebrating 40 Years of Catholic Education*

On September 17, 1979, St. John's Catholic Preschool (SJCP) first opened its doors to 49 exuberant children from ages 2-1/2 years to 4-1/2 years. What an exciting day that was for young learners to be introduced to a Montessori education right in their own parish! It is gratifying to know that hundreds of young minds were first formed at St. John's Catholic Preschool and doubly gratifying to know that the very same quality Montessori education continues at St. John's to this very day – 40 years later.

SJCP is the only Montessori-based program in the local area. A Montessori model means that children choose the kinds of activities in which to participate, thus helping each child create a foundation for creative learning.

"Children who come to our school are given the freedom to select individual activities which correspond to their own periods of interest at their own pace," says Preschool Interim Director Amytes Quiason, known as Ms. Amie to the students.

These materials are carefully and scientifically designed to meet the evolving developmental needs of the children. Ms. Amie is especially adept at helping children discover their gifts as she has been teaching at SJCP for 26 years. Many of her now-adult former students lovingly greet her and recall their wonderful preschool days.

From the very beginning, SJCP was more than a Montessori program as it also focused on our Catholic Faith. Today at SJCP the Catholic Montessori curriculum is also enhanced by Music and Religion Enrichment programs. SJCP proudly notes that our preschool specializes in providing a nurturing, safe environment where children can grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, morally and intellectually. Using Jesus as our Master Teacher, we strive to help each child develop to his or her potential.

The school's religion enrichment program is based on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program, which is totally Montessori-based and in which Ms. Amie has been trained. SJCP's tagline says it all: Building a Christ-Centered Community of Life-long Learners. SJCP currently serves ages 3 to 6 in a multi-age classroom.

"The older children are looked upon as role models for the younger children while these young ones eagerly await their



*St. John's Catholic Preschool will celebrate 40 years this year! Students and teachers look forward to the 2019-2020 school year.*

chance to take on this role," Ms. Amie says. "The students become responsible young citizens in our little classroom," she says. "And they learn to thank God for every blessing that comes their way. At the end of the school year it gives me a sense of fulfillment when I witness the great transformation children undergo from when they started."

This year the school space will remain in a rented room at Mililani Presbyterian Preschool, but SJCP will return to a newly renovated space on the St. John Apostle & Evangelist Church campus for the 2020-21 school year. Ms. Amie looks forward to returning to the church campus as well as spending time with her students.

"Their purity of heart and their unstoppable desire for learning are what I love most about this age group," she says. "It is what challenges me to make each new day a new adventure for learning."

In September to celebrate their 40th anniversary, Ms. Amie notes that the preschool will involve the parish in a number of activities. Rather than have one anniversary event, the preschool students will be interacting with parishioners at Masses throughout the entire month. Students, school staff, and parishioners are looking forward to recognizing the 40 years of dedicated Catholic Montessori education as well as celebrating today's staff and students!

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

# Our Annual Stewardship Renewal

## Questions and Answers

*Commitment Weekend is  
October 19-20.  
Don't forget to bring your  
Commitment Card to Mass!*

### Is your prayer life in need of a tune-up?

Honestly ask yourself, "How much time do I spend in prayer each week?" The answer is probably a bit embarrassing. Everyone wants to spend more time in prayer, but there's just never enough time to do everything we want to do. Good intentions are just that: intentions. This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your time to God, resolve to follow through with your commitments. Consider each moment you spend in prayer as nourishment for your soul. The spiritual health of our parish is only as strong as the sum of its parts (individual parishioners).

### Is your level of parish involvement in need of a boost?

We give our talents back to God when we get involved in ministries at St. John Apostle & Evangelist. And, with a host of ministries to choose from, there's something for everyone. Sure, ministries give parishioners opportunities to serve others in the community, but they also benefit those in the ministry itself. Ask anyone who actively participates in a ministry at St. John Apostle & Evangelist, "Why do you enjoy serving in this way?" They'll probably say, "I get more out of the ministry than the people I serve." This year, as you're discerning how you will offer your talents to God, consider signing up for a ministry that may benefit you, like a Bible study, prayer group, or retreat. Or, contribute to an outreach ministry, where your good deeds not only help others in the community, but also give you feelings of satisfaction and thankfulness.

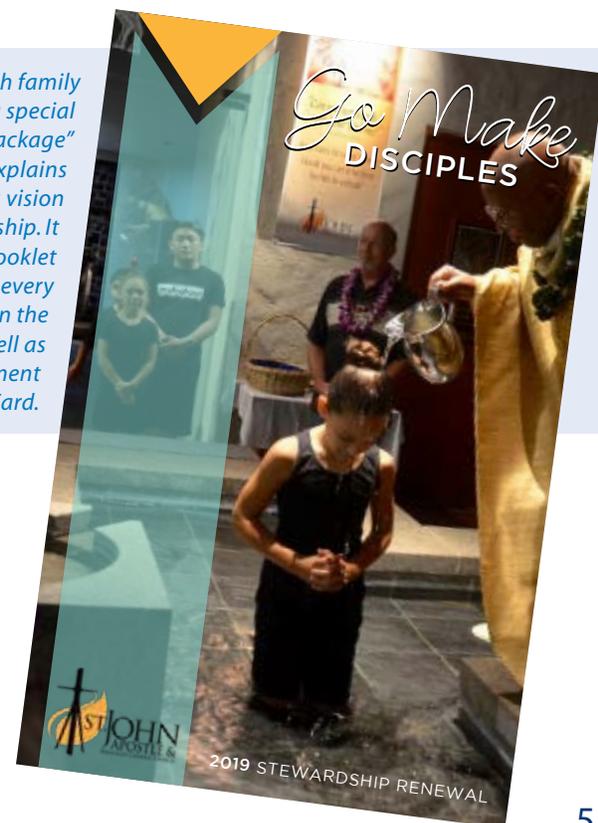
### Do you give a percentage of your income to the offertory?

It may be hard to see offertory giving as a way to "help yourself," but when we approach the subject from a spiritual viewpoint, it can lead to individual spiritual growth and an increase in faith. Even the most savvy business person worries about his or her personal finances from time to time.

Adding a weekly offertory check to the list of monthly bills may seem crazy but, ultimately, sacrificial giving forces us to cut unnecessary spending, create a budget and have faith that God will help us make it through the month. All of these are good things for each of us, individually. After faithfully giving to the offertory for a few months, many Catholics find that it's not only possible to give a weekly offering, but that the fruits of their gift far outweigh the expense.

At St. John Apostle & Evangelist, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10). Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

*Every parish family will receive a special "Stewardship Package" that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card.*



## St. Gregory the Great: *Laboring for the Kingdom of God*

Sept. 3 is the feast day of St. Gregory the Great. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the Feast of St. Gregory also falls around the time when Americans make our national observance of Labor Day. While a shining example of Christian virtue, St. Gregory the Great also sheds light on the fuller value and purpose of labor and human work.

St. Gregory was born in Rome around 540 to a wealthy family, with several family members noted for holiness of life. He was raised and educated during times of great trial, both for the Church in general, and for Rome, a city besieged by several waves of barbarians.

Gregory was made prefect of Rome at a young age. He struggled with the call to give all in following Christ, but finally chose a monastic life, donating his estates to the founding of monasteries. His three years of monastic seclusion were some of the most enjoyable of his life.

Once Gregory was ordained as a deacon, he was sent to the Court of Byzantium as ambassador, where he struggled greatly with the court's worldly atmosphere. Having provided, with some difficulty, six years of faithful service to the court, he was joyfully recalled to Rome. Gregory was appointed abbot of St. Andrew's Monastery, which under his leadership, produced many monks who were later renowned for holiness of life. He was later chosen to be a missionary to England. This demonstrates how highly regarded Gregory must have been by this time, for after he was sent away, an uprising immediately arose among the populace of Rome. A team of messengers was then dispatched to bring him back, which they successfully did.



The death of Pope Pelagius II in 590 led to Gregory being immediately chosen by the clergy and people of Rome as the pope's successor. Some sources suggest that Gregory was dragged from his bed, while others maintain that he fled from the city and hid for three days.

Despite his initial unwillingness to accept the burden of the papacy, Gregory spent the final 14 years of his life devoting all of his energy towards his work as pope.

Gregory's life produced fruit that would continue to mature for centuries to come — guidance for the care of souls, reformation of the liturgy, sending missionaries to spread faith abroad, and much more. He is arguably one of the greatest foundational supports of medieval Europe, and thus, of our own society today.

Americans celebrate Labor Day, the yearly tribute given to our country's workers. The day's purpose is to remind us of the real social and economic contributions made through the early Labor Movement, up to workers in the present day.

As Catholics, we can also celebrate Labor Day with a deeper Christian understanding of its purpose.

Jesus spoke often about "the Kingdom of God," and He taught us that it is already here — however, not in its perfect, final form. Christians receive the Kingdom at baptism, and they also build it inside themselves through the varied ways of working to grow in personal holiness. They also work to build the kingdom, just as Gregory did, by offering Christ-like service in all areas of their lives. Thus, in our own Christian lives, we continue the same work that St. Gregory performed, and to which all of us are called, in the building of the Kingdom of God.

# St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church

## Statement of Activities vs. Budget

### 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019

	Actual	Budget	Variance (\$)	Variance (%)	
<b>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
40000	OFFERTORY COLLECTION	888,820	921,325	(32,505)	-4%
42000	OTHER REGULAR INCOME	61,284	73,650	(12,366)	-17%
45000	REVENUE SUBJECT TO GET	-	-	-	0%
47000	UNUSUAL (NON-SCHEDULED) INCOME	14,527	4,200	10,327	246%
49100	NET ASSETS RELEASED- OPERATIONS	-	-	-	0%
49170	LAND & BUILDING VALUATIONS	-	-	-	0%
49200	NET ASSETS RELEASED-CAPITAL PRJ	-	-	-	0%
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>964,631</b>	<b>999,175</b>	<b>(34,544)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
50000	EMPLOYMENT COSTS	297,636	297,101	535	0%
51000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	72,821	75,999	(3,178)	-4%
51500	INSURANCE	24,333	24,336	(3)	0%
51700	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	24,225	26,410	(2,185)	-8%
52000	SUPPLIES AND OTHER SERVICES	185,460	153,249	32,211	21%
52900	FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	-	-	-	0%
53000	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	50,198	69,002	(18,804)	-27%
54000	UTILITIES	51,329	48,231	3,098	6%
55000	CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS	184,891	181,212	3,679	2%
56000	INTEREST EXPENSE	-	-	-	0%
57000	TAXES	291	960	(669)	-70%
58000	DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	0%
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>891,185</b>	<b>876,500</b>	<b>14,685</b>	<b>2%</b>
	<b>Total Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>73,446</b>	<b>122,675</b>	<b>(49,229)</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Other Income</b>					
71120	Stewardship donations	1,680	-	1,680	0%
71122	Grant Funds	8,382	-	8,382	0%
71123	Building & Maintenance Collection	55,211	-	55,211	0%
71150	OCC - Capital project pledges and cash	1,589,941	-	1,589,941	0%
	<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1,655,214</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,655,214</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Total Other Income/Expense</b>	<b>1,655,214</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,655,214</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Total Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>1,728,661</b>	<b>122,675</b>	<b>1,605,986</b>	<b>1309%</b>

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

## CARA Survey *continued from front cover*

with a higher return rate giving leadership a better sense of goals and priorities to include in our next Five-Year Plan.”

“The results of the Parish Life Survey will allow parish leadership to better understand ‘the sense of the faithful’ – that is, what St. John’s parishioners are thinking as the parish strives to continue being the model of a stewardship, spirit-led parish. Parishioners will be able to rate current levels of programs and services and leadership will better understand how important these programs and services are to the parishioners.”

The Parish Life Survey will also help parish leadership gain a sense of which goals from the previous Five-Year Pastoral Plan have successfully been achieved, and which goals still need attention.

“The current Five-Year Plan was the result of a lot of time and effort from many of our parishioners,” Cory says. “But we don’t really have an objective view of how well we’ve done. On which goals have we excelled? On which goals have we fallen short? Which goals have been achieved? It’s time to update the Five-Year Pastoral Plan, expanding on those goals we have partially achieved, as well as identifying new goals that we would like to include in the revised Plan.”

Cory encourages parishioners to reflect on CARA’s Seven Elements of Parish Life and consider which aspects are most important to them.

“The Seven Elements of Parish Life are community, worship, leadership, formation, stewardship, social justice and evangelization,” Cory says. “These will be the basis of the survey questions to which our parishioners will respond. What do you want St. John’s to accomplish?”

Honest and open communication in the survey is the key to the survey’s success. Cory hopes people will choose to be thoughtful and invested in the survey process.

“You have not because you ask not,” he says. “If there’s something for which you have great passion, be

vocal about it. Let parish leadership know and if enough parishioners share your passion, it may very well become a part of the revised Five-Year Pastoral Plan.”

With the survey taking place this month, the Parish Pastoral Council hopes to have the data compiled and reported back to the parishioners before the end of the year, and have the updated Five-Year Pastoral Plan released in the spring.

“Parishioners should feel a sense of accomplishment that parish leadership acts on parishioners’ input. Parishioners asked for a Parish Center and it will be completed and dedicated in December,” Cory says.

As we move into the planning stages of our next Five-Year Pastoral Plan, Cory reminds our parish community that this is a hopeful time and that we can all look forward to how our input will impact our parish and community in the years to come.

“I think it’s a really exciting time for us,” he says. “This process will continue to bring St. John’s parishioners together in our mission as we move forward. We want St. John’s to be the parish to which people want to belong.”

***“When you mail a survey to a house, one person fills it in, and you get the sense of that one person. Often times the survey is not returned. A survey in the pews allows participation by more people with a higher return rate giving leadership a better sense of goals and priorities to include in our next Five-Year Plan.” — CORY LINDO***

*If you would like more information about the CARA survey, please contact Cory Lindo at [corylindo@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:corylindo@hawaiiintel.net) or 808-271-4428.*