

JAN
2016

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

LIVING OUT OUR BAPTISMAL CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

Part of the beauty of our Catholic faith is its universality. We each have various gifts, talents and charisms to contribute to our local communities, as well as to the Church at large. And throughout history, there have been various movements in spirituality, religious orders, apostolates, and lay communities. These communities within the Church allow those with a similar spirituality to come together, encourage each other, and flourish in faith. The Marianist Lay Community is one such community that is focused on our Blessed Mother's role in our lives as Catholics, enabling us to live out our baptismal calling to be disciples of Christ.

"Stewardship is often described as giving of our time, talent and treasures, but it's really our way of life because of our baptism," says Fr. Roland Bunda, who has been a part of the Marianist Community for 53 years - 16 years as a brother and 37 years as a priest. "Stewardship is becoming disciples of Jesus."

According to Fr. Roland, an important part of becoming Christ's disciples is going out into our communities and sharing the Gospel with others. Helping us accomplish this mission is the Blessed Mother, who is the perfect example of discipleship.



Small-group discussions at retreats and meetings allow for members to be encouraged by others on our journey of faith.

"We believe as Marianists that our Blessed Mother can help us [with this calling]," Fr. Roland says. "The true secret to any success is to get our Blessed Mother involved."

Fr. Roland's words about the Marianist spirituality challenge us, even as lay people, to embrace our baptismal calling to discipleship.

"The Marianist order was founded by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade," Fr. Roland says. "He was a priest in France who ministered during and after the French Revolution. His desire was to bring back the faith in France. He was inspired to found the Family of Mary [the Marianist Community] and his whole goal was to deepen people's devotion to Mary because Mary leads us to Jesus. Now, the community is made of three

continued on back cover

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS AND STEWARDSHIP

The beginning of the year is a popular time for personal reassessment. The earth has finished one more revolution around the sun. The days are shorter, and an evening of introspection seems more inviting. Somehow, when we take down the old calendar and tack up the new, we sense an opportunity to make a fresh start.

To make the best of this opportunity — which, truthfully, exists in June just as it does in January — it is useful to make firm commitments. It's even more useful to write them down. These resolutions, kept in a desk drawer or on the refrigerator door, are a "hard copy" of our best intentions for self-improvement. They're signposts that redirect our lives towards good, and towards God.

New Year's resolutions are often focused on personal health — losing weight, relaxing more or smoking less. It is certainly important, of course, to take good care

of our bodies. But Christianity offers us a fuller concept of self-improvement. St. Paul reminds us that both the body and the soul need an exercise program. In fact, every aspect of our persons — physical, mental, spiritual, emotional — can benefit from an annual self-audit.

Some people have taken to heart this multifaceted concept of the self, and each year make one resolution for each area. For instance, one could resolve to join a Rosary prayer group to work on spirituality, or take a continuing education course to build mental skills. Still, others use the three theological virtues — faith, hope and love — to guide their resolution-making process.

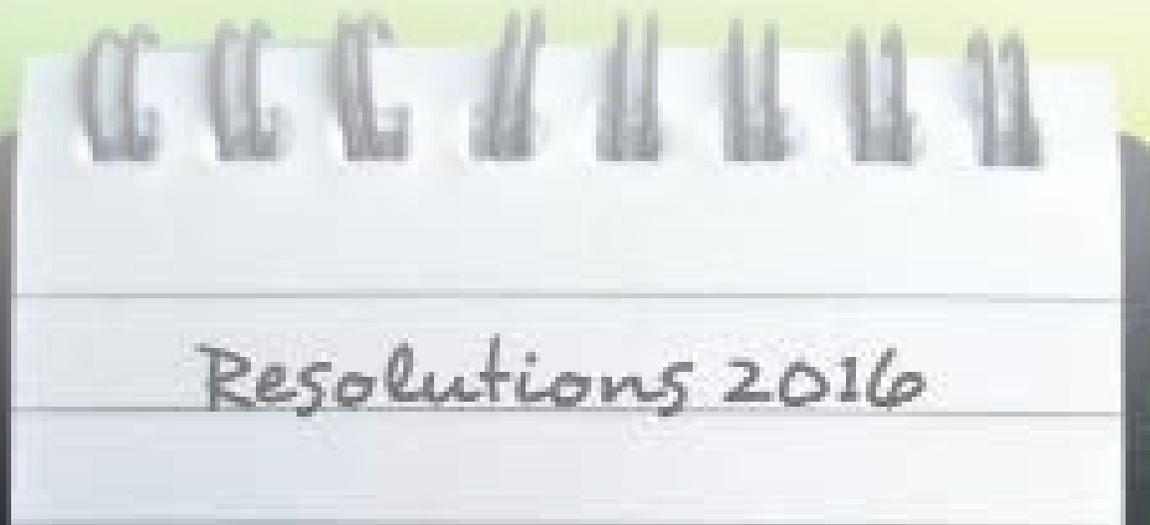
By now, you may have discerned a similarity between New Year's resolutions and stewardship commitments. First, we use a similar method to think about stewardship, by breaking it down into

more specific concepts — time, talent and treasure. Second, to become better stewards, we write down our commitments. We record our good intentions to clarify exactly what they are — and to remind us of our commitment on the evenings when the Rosary group interferes with a bowl game.

Any serious commitment shares the same components — it is specific and it is written. From marriages to mortgages, treaties to trades, serious resolutions are spelled out both literally and figuratively.

But even more important than the methodology of a commitment is the heart of the person who makes it. Even the most eloquent job descriptions are useless unless there is someone to do the job well! Let us pray that this New Year is a time of grace and wisdom for those of us who seek to recommit our lives to our family, our parish and our God.

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Resolve to be Merciful

Dear Parishioners,

Most of you are aware that we launched a Holy Year of Mercy on Dec. 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. You are most likely also aware of Pope Francis' motivation for proclaiming this year. In his announcement the Holy Father stated, "It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective."

If we do nothing else during this Holy Year, each of us must seek forgiveness from the Lord; and we also need to make an effort to forgive others. Mercy is, after all, a two-way street. We receive it, but we must as well show it. In fact, during this month when many make resolutions, let us each resolve to be merciful.

That, of course, is not always easy, and sometimes may not even be convenient. Being able to be merciful requires us to look beyond the emotional, past the self-centeredness that may lead us to be angry and unforgiving. The story is related that soon after becoming pope, an interviewer asked Francis to describe himself - the pope immediately answered, "A sinner." However, he quickly added, "Who has been looked upon by the face of mercy."



Each of us can recall when we have been "looked upon by the face of mercy." This needs to be our motivation for showing to others what we have received. Also, in his letter announcing this Holy Year, the pope called us to have a "deep desire for true conversion." This is what stewardship is all about - not being self-centered, but God-centered. It asks us to recognize, acknowledge, and share our many gifts. Nevertheless, to do that effectively requires a conversion on our part. That needs to be part of our purpose for this year, too.

Stewardship always seems to come back to the concept of "love for one another." One of the misnomers - and a conclusion many have drawn from the Year of Mercy - is that God's essential characteristic is mercy. The Lord's fundamental attribute is love. Mercy is what love looks like when we show it.

Therefore, let us resolve to show mercy and love to all we meet, all we know, and all with whom we may work.

Blessings and have a Joyful and Merciful Year,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

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A Memorial Tribute to

Elaine Haupu, wife of the late Deacon Hiram Haupu, shares a beautiful reflection as she recalls the 40 years that she spent “living, laughing, and loving” with her beloved husband.

“When you make that decision, ‘this is the person I want to marry,’ it’s like stepping into a mystery,” she says. “We don’t know the future, but something inside of us is called. It’s the beginning of discovering love and saying ‘yes, I’m going to step into this mystery,’ and then seeing it evolve – coming to the realization, as time goes on, that love isn’t a feeling, but it’s a choice that we make every day. In spite of what we experience, we choose to love.”

This journey began 40 years ago in Aviano, Italy, when the Air Force brought together a son of St. Anthony Parish, Hiram, and Illinois-born Elaine. The couple was married in Aviano – exactly a year after they first met – on Sept. 24, 1976.

“You know the Lord had a plan for us because He brought us both from halfway around the world to meet each other,” Elaine says.

Recalling what first drew her to Hiram, Elaine shares that it was his passion for caring for others.

“His being open and supportive of other people, I found that very endearing,” she says. “He was passionate about family, about serving the Lord, and being there for anyone who needed him. That was the way he was brought up by his mom and dad. Hawaiian-style, family is very important and it’s always about others.”

With that in mind, it is not surprising that Elaine remembers a defining moment in their relationship being when they returned home to Maui in 1989.

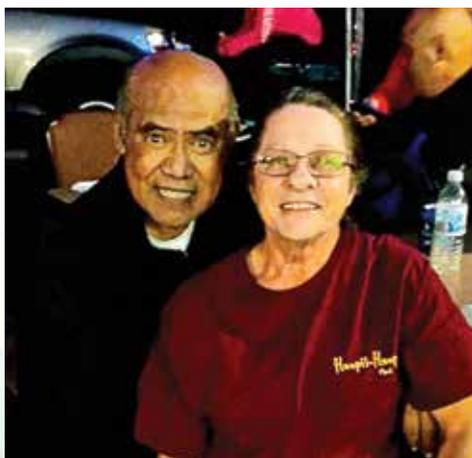
“It was like the Lord had called us to start a new journey,” she says. “In the beginning, the first 20 years, the focus wasn’t always as a couple, together. We had our highs and lows, and sometimes we weren’t on the same page.”

Elaine shares that, although both she and Hiram were raised Catholic, growing in their relationship with the Lord through Life in the Spirit Seminars and the charismatic movement really impacted their faith individually, as well as their marriage.

“That was the beginning of a new relationship with the Lord and the Holy Spirit,” Elaine says. “It opened our eyes and our hearts to this new way of living in grace and relationship with the Lord. That put us on the same page, where we could both look forward to where the Lord was calling us and seeing the beauty of our love with a new perspective. It was more about working together to serve the Lord than being people just trying to make it in the world.”

This journey in ministry led Hiram to pursue the diaconate, as Elaine remembers, in response to what he believed was a direct invitation from the Lord.

“Hiram shared that he heard



Deacon Hiram Haupu and his wife, Elaine, were married for 39 years, and often served together in ministry.



“[The parish] was always praying for us. I’m just so thankful and I know [Hiram] felt the same gratitude. I know he appreciates everybody’s continued prayers and support for me. We’re so blessed to be in a beautiful ohana,” says Elaine Haupu, wife of the late Deacon Hiram Haupu.

ON A JOURNEY

Deacon Hiram Haupū

the Lord say, 'son, come,'" she says. "And he heard it so clear that he thought it was his dad, but his dad wasn't even near him! He realized it was the Lord telling him, 'son, come.' He had been hearing about diaconate formation and he felt that was the Lord calling him into formation, to begin the journey to becoming a deacon. So he said 'yes' and we began the journey together."

From growing deeper in their relationship through Marriage Encounter Retreats, to the numerous ways they became involved with serving the parish, both Hiram and Elaine found their newly deepening faith and pursuit of the diaconate to be a gift in their lives.

"The Lord just brought so many more blessings into our lives as we began the journey," Elaine says. "Sometimes, we think the journey is about getting to the end, but actually, it's the experience of walking the journey together, and we should find joy in the journey, wherever the Lord is calling us, because it's not the end point, but the journey itself that He wants us to experience and find joy in."

After being ordained in 2001, Deacon Hiram continued his day job, working in building maintenance for the state. However, he was most fulfilled in serving his parish and community.

"He loved serving at the altar – that was very important to him, and of course, doing his homilies," Elaine says. "He was also passionate about being there for the people. If people

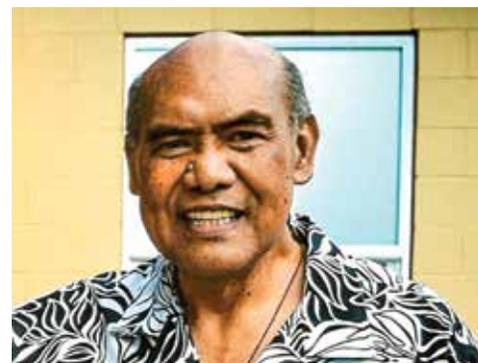
needed somebody to come pray with someone at the hospital, if they couldn't find a priest, they would call, sometimes late at night and he was always willing to drop whatever he was doing and go down there, and I would usually go with him. And he was always very involved in prison ministry. As his health deteriorated, he was not able to go as often as he wanted to, but that was always on his heart. He always wanted to be there for the people, not only of St. Anthony, but the people in the community."

On Sept. 4, 2015, after almost two years of struggling with various health issues, Deacon Hiram went into the hospital with health concerns, only for doctors to quickly discover complications that would make a successful operation an impossibility. With the news that there was nothing that could be done, Elaine moved him home, so that he could spend his final days surrounded by loved ones, before passing away on Sept. 13.

And then, exactly 40 years from the day they met, on their 39th wedding anniversary, Elaine stood by her husband's side again, this time, at his vigil funeral service.

"The Lord is good about giving us those moments of grace, and I found that it was very fitting to be able to stand at his side on our 39th wedding anniversary and be with him in that special time," Elaine says. "It was an honor and a privilege to be in his life, through the journey that the Lord brought us through.

"And the Lord is not going to



Deacon Hiram Haupū served St. Anthony Parish as a deacon, from the time he was ordained in 2001.

leave me, He's always been there for us," she continues. "I don't know where the new journey is going, but that's part of the mystery. So, when I start getting sad, I just thank the Lord and Hiram for being there and for 40 years. I continue to look forward and try to embrace all the graces the Lord has placed in front of me."

Elaine would like to thank the community of St. Anthony's for all their support of her during this time of grief, as well as to give a bit of encouragement to her parish family.

"[The parish] was always praying for us," Elaine says. "I'm just so thankful and I know [Hiram] felt the same gratitude. I know he appreciates everybody's continued prayers and support for me. We're so blessed to be in a beautiful ohana."

Finally, Elaine offers a reminder to not take for granted those who are closest to us.

"None of us are promised tomorrow," she says. "We need to let our loved ones know that we love them, every day."

ELEANOR FUKUDA: BLESSED TO GIVE

Many words come to mind when describing parishioner Eleanor Fukuda – devout, loving, energetic, and selfless. These are just some of the words that can be applied to the woman who has been joyously serving our community for the past 68 years. From bringing Holy Communion to residents of Hale Makua, to assisting the Grief and Support Ministry, to craft making with Hui Na Lima Kokua, and finally, singing with the 7 a.m. Mass Choir, Eleanor seems to be involved in every aspect of parish life. Yet, in describing herself the single word Eleanor uses is blessed.



A proud great-grandmother for the third time!

“Everything that I do, I feel blessed by it and happy about it,” Eleanor says. “The people around me are so loving in how they help and receive me in what I am doing. When you go out loving people, you can do whatever you want to.”

Eleanor’s faith journey began as a teenage girl. Born into a Buddhist family, she began attending catechism classes as a high school student at St. Anthony Catholic Community.

“In those days, the sisters used to teach us catechism,” Eleanor says. “I used to go to public school, and we were allowed to leave school once a week in order to attend any church that we chose for religious instruction.

“I decided to attend St. Anthony’s with two other girls just to get away from school,” she adds, laughing.

Although her initial motivation to attend the classes was hardly spiritual, God used Eleanor’s encounters with the sisters to begin capturing her heart. And so, as a 15-year-old girl, Eleanor decided to become Catholic,



Eleanor Fukuda

marking the beginning of her sacramental life with Christ.

Since then, Eleanor’s faith has matured into a deep relationship with Christ that is truly inspirational. She begins each morning by praying the Rosary, followed by daily Mass. Eleanor then spends the rest of her day striving to love and serve God through her actions, sharing His joy and blessings with her family, friends and all those she encounters.

“I know that the blessings I have – my family, my friends, and my good health – have been

continued on page 7

“I know that the blessings I have – my family, my friends, and my good health – have been given to me by God. I do all these ministries as a way of thanking Him and giving back. God gives me the strength to do what I am doing now, and I ask Him every day to give me the strength to go on.”

– Eleanor Fukuda

ELEANOR FUKUDA *continued from page 6*

given to me by God," she says. "I do all these ministries as a way of thanking Him and giving back. God gives me the strength to do what I am doing now, and I ask Him every day to give me the strength to go on."

Indeed, Eleanor's strength and energy seem to be tireless. At the age of 83, she remains more active than many people younger than herself.

"I'm really blessed with whatever God gives me - with my children and grandchildren and great grandchildren especially," Eleanor says. "They bring me so much joy when I see them. They always say, 'Grandma, you have to live forever.' But I say when the time comes, I am ready to go and they have to be happy for me, because I will be with Jesus."

In the meantime, Eleanor feels that she still has plenty of giving to do, sharing her time with others

and witnessing Christ's love for them. She particularly enjoys being able to bring the Eucharist to the sick and frail at Hale Makua.

"I decided to go to Hale Makua after much prayer to minister to the sick there," she says. "I feel so blessed bringing Jesus to them - they are so happy to receive Jesus. Some of them cannot even talk, but they show their gratitude through their smile."

Through her joyful service, Eleanor reminds us that stewardship is for all of us, no matter our season of life. God, in His goodness, lavishes His blessings upon us - using our time, talent and treasure for Him is a way to show our gratitude and love.

"Stewardship means giving back because of all the blessings that I have," Eleanor says. "Because I have time, I

am able to give it to the ministries that I do. I try to be an example to others, so that they may be blessed by the things that I am doing. Our blessings are a gift from God, and it is important that we share them with others."



Eleanor Fukuda with two of her great-grandchildren.



Eleanor Fukuda with a group of friends from the church.



Parishioner Eleanor Fukuda with her greatest blessings - her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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Living Out Our Baptismal Call continued from front cover

branches - lay people, sisters, and religious men."

Kathy Shimada has been a member of the lay community for close to five years and has experienced first-hand the fruits of the Marianist Lay Community.

"Spiritually, I have grown so much stronger," Kathy says. "My goals have become to help other parishioners get involved with the church. We each have beautiful gifts to offer to the community, and I try to help people

see that it's important to spread the Gospel to others in our lives, especially our own families, which are usually the hardest to minister to."

Kathy shares that it's important for us to understand Mary's role in our Christian lives of discipleship.

"Everything the Blessed Mother did was for Jesus," she says. "Everything she asks us to do for her is for Jesus. Our Blessed Mother's goal was to do whatever Jesus said, and we need to do that, too."



*The Marianist Lay Community
renewing their commitment at Sunday Mass.*

All are welcome to come to the monthly Marianist meetings! The meetings are each third Monday at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the parish office at 808-244-4148.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

CHURCH CENTER :: **Saturday** 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday** 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SAINT DAMIEN CHAPEL :: **Monday - Friday** 6:30 a.m. | **Saturday** 7:00 a.m.