



ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ST. ANTHONY PRESCHOOL *A Joyful Learning Experience*

It may seem hard to believe, but our preschool students are already nearing the completion of what has been a wonderful 2018-19 school year!

“They’re so curious about learning, everything is joyful at this age,” says Carlene Santos, Director of St. Anthony Preschool. “We’re just here to have fun and to learn and to grow.”

Our preschool provides the opportunity for our youngest students, ages 3 to 5, to learn and grow in an environment that will help prepare them for a successful academic future.

“By supporting the preschool, we are enabling children to be successful in more formal learning,” Mrs. Santos says. “The expectations in kindergarten are really high, and whatever experiences and academic orientation we can give them at the preschool level will only help them in more formal learning.”

The children learn through a variety of different mediums, focusing on topics that interest them.

“Our curriculum is constantly changing — every month there are new themes,” Mrs. Santos says. “For example, because of the scares with volcanoes on the Big Island, we did curriculum based on volcanoes.”

As a Catholic preschool, the introduction of the faith is an important aspect of the program.

“For this age, the faith component is teaching them about Jesus, how He loves us, how He’s always there for us,” Mrs. Santos says. “They’re introduced



St. Anthony Preschool is grateful for the support of the parish in many ways. This painting was done by a former preschool parent, Mitzi Toro, at St. Anthony Preschool.

to prayer and Bible stories, and we emphasize moral teachings — caring for each other, loving each other, and being kind to each other.”

Throughout the course of the school year, there have been several opportunities for the children to be immersed in fine arts. This year, they experienced plays brought into the school by groups such as the Academy of Performing Arts and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth, as well as a trip to the Hui No’eau Visual Arts Center, to learn about art around the world.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2019 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

Just a few months ago, our St. Anthony Catholic Community conducted the 2019 Stewardship Renewal. This renewal gave parishioners the opportunity to discern where God was calling them, and to make commitments of time, talent and treasure to God and the parish.

This month, we are happy to share with you some of the results of the 2019 Stewardship Renewal at St. Anthony.

- There were 139 commitment cards received from 21 percent of active parish households.
- There were 804 prayer commitments — the stewardship of time — from 93 percent of participating households.
- Some of the prayer commitments included: “Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days,” 122 commitments; “Spend at least 15 minutes a day in personal prayer,” 117 commitments; “Pray for the sick of our parish,” 100 commitments.
- There were 328 ministry commitments — the stewardship of talent — from 69 percent of participating households. Of these, 82 were new commitments to parish ministries, while 246 were ministry re-commitments.
- Some of the ministry commitments included: Eucharistic Ministers, 40 commitments; Music Ministry, 37 commitments; Church Cleaners, 29 commitments; Lector, 29 commitments; Bible Study, 24 commitments.
- There were 105 offertory commitments — the stewardship of treasure — from 76 percent of participating households. The average pledge was \$2,171.

We thank all who participated in the 2019 Stewardship Renewal, whether you are making stewardship commitments for the first time, or have renewed commitments to God and parish. If you did not fill out and return a commitment card, we invite you to consider the ways you may share your gifts — after all, there is no time like the present to begin living out stewardship!



FORMED
IN THE HEART

St. Anthony Catholic Community

2019 COMMITMENT CARD

My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: *First & Last Name*

Spouse: *Phone*

Spouse: *Email*

Address

City

State

ZIP

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Honoring Our Lady in May

Dear Parishioners,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.

And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes that fill our Christian calendar this month.

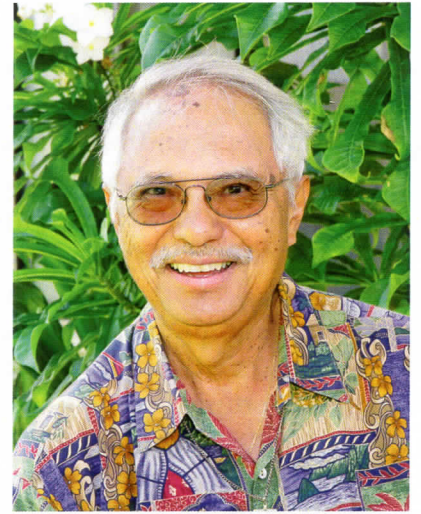
As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

As we enter into the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.



NEW CATHOLIC JUSTINE CASTILLO REFLECTS

Sometimes, one small step is all it takes to begin the journey of a lifetime. When Justine Castillo first came to an RCIA — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults — class at St. Anthony last September, she could have never imagined how much that decision would end up changing her life.

“I was so moved by the first class I went to that I said, ‘This is where I’m supposed to be,’” Justine says. “Sometimes, you just know something like that in your heart. It was so powerful. I had been searching for something, and I found it.”

Justine was not raised attending any one particular church, and as an adult, she found herself trying out various Protestant churches without ever finding one that felt like home. She eventually became more acquainted with the Catholic faith — and the Mass — through her Catholic fiancé, Brandon Edwin. The two have been together for 10 years, and Justine was prompted to learn more about the Church as the two started making marriage preparations. She also desired to find a strong faith home in which to raise their 2-year-old daughter, Bailey.

Over the past eight months, Justine has grown to love the RCIA process — and how close it has brought her to God — more and more.

“I really love getting together and talking about God and the stories of people’s lives,” she says of the classes. “That’s my gas for the week, it fills me up — going to Mass and going to classes. When I leave, I feel like a different person. It helps me connect with God on a deeper level. I never used to pray every day — I only used to pray when things went wrong. Now I pray when things are right, wrong and every which way!”

As Justine has learned more about the faith, she and Brandon have also begun incorporating prayer into their relationship with one another.

“We didn’t used to pray together, but now we do,” Justine says. “It’s transforming us and getting us ready to take that step of marriage. I feel like



Justine Castillo (right) with her RCIA sponsor and director, Rhonda Visaya, and Fr. Roland

this is part of God’s plan, and while nothing can be perfect, now that we’ve started to put God first in everything, things are just falling into place.”

Helping Justine along in this faith journey is Rhonda Visaya, St. Anthony’s RCIA Director and Justine’s sponsor. Justine is thankful for the loving support Rhonda has shown her every step of the way.

“I can’t even thank her enough,” Justine says. “I didn’t really have a strong support system of people who believe in what I’m doing, and she stepped in when I didn’t have a sponsor and has helped me throughout this whole process.”

For her part, Rhonda has felt blessed to be able to serve as Justine’s RCIA sponsor.

“It’s just wonderful sharing with Justine and

ON HER EXPERIENCE IN OUR RCIA PROCESS



Justine Castillo with her fiancé, Brandon Edwin, and their daughter, Bailey

seeing how she has been growing in her faith,” Rhonda says. “It’s just been awesome. Watching her on her faith journey shows God’s grace and power and all He can do for us. Justine is a wonderful person, and I’ve definitely enjoyed going through this process with her.”

Given her life-changing experience in our RCIA process, Justine would urge anyone who is “searching” to come here to St. Anthony to learn more about our Lord and His Church.

“I want to encourage other people that are interested in becoming a Catholic and tell them this is the program to be in,” she says. “You have that support system, and you have people that want to learn more about God and connect with God on a different level. It’s only an hour each week. I know

“I’m just super grateful that I’ve even had this opportunity to be part of something that is so amazing. A lot of things happened in my life that were very hard, and I used to be bitter, but now I have a different outlook on life. It really is life-changing, and it has only been a few months! I feel like every day that I put God first, I’m closer to Him. It’s really shaping me to become a better woman. I just feel renewed.” — JUSTINE CASTILLO

time is precious, but taking an hour to talk about God and life — why not? Just be open-minded.”

As a catechumen in this year’s RCIA process, Justine received all of the Sacraments of Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion — at our Easter Vigil Mass. It was a night she will never forget, following eight months of spiritual growth that changed her life forever.

“I’m just super grateful that I’ve even had this opportunity to be part of something that is so amazing,” she says. “A lot of things happened in my life that were very hard, and I used to be bitter, but now I have a different outlook on life. It really is life-changing, and it has only been a few months! I feel like every day that I put God first, I’m closer to Him. It’s really shaping me to become a better woman. I just feel renewed.”

THE SIGN OF

A Powerful

As Catholics, we are blessed to be part of a faith tradition that stretches back over 2,000 years to its founding by Jesus Christ. Along with the history of our faith come many customs and sacred rituals that become even more beautiful when we delve a little deeper into their origins and meanings. Certainly, such is the case with one of the most visible outward signs of our Catholic faith — the Sign of the Cross.

Since we say and make the Sign of the Cross so often, it may easily become a rote, perhaps even thoughtless, action. However, it is important to remember that the Sign of the Cross is much more than a simple gesture. Even in its most basic form, the Sign of the Cross — accompanied by the spoken or unspoken words “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” — is a prayer, a creed stating our belief in the Holy Trinity, the dual nature of Jesus Christ, and the dependence of our salvation on His crucifixion and resurrection.

In addition, making the Sign of the Cross is an indication of a willingness to take up our own cross and suffering for the sake of Christ. The prayer is considered one of the greatest weapons against Satan and all demons, and an added strength against the temptations of the flesh.

In the Roman Catholic Church today, the Sign of the Cross is typically made with either three fingers or an open hand touching first the forehead, then the chest, followed by the left shoulder and then the right (in the Eastern

Church, the right shoulder is touched before the left). The concept of making a sign, or “setting a seal,” upon the forehead of those who place their faith in the Lord appears in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible — see Ezek. 9:4 and Rev. 7:3, 9:4, and 14:1.

Early versions of the Sign of the Cross were traced on just the forehead, using the thumb and forefinger held together in the shape of a tiny cross. We still see this version of the blessing performed during Baptisms (with the cross traced on the infant’s forehead) and on Ash Wednesday (with the cross traced in ashes on the foreheads of the faithful). Similarly, when the Gospel is read during the Liturgy of the Word, the priest or deacon leads the congregation in forming this small cross on the forehead, mouth, and chest, indicating a willingness to keep the Word of the Lord in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

There is no doubt that our early Church fathers were strong believers in the sanctifying power of the Sign of the Cross. A second-century ecclesiastical scholar, Tertullian, and a third century saint, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, both wrote about the necessity of performing the Sign of the Cross at one’s waking and one’s lying down, at entering and leaving a room, at mealtimes, and more. St. Augustine also referenced the importance of marking the cross on the faithful’s forehead during the administration of the sacraments.

THE CROSS:

Prayer Tradition IN THE Catholic Church

It is likely that the sign transformed from the tiny cross on the forehead to the larger, full-body cross used today sometime in the fifth century, when heretics began questioning both the dual nature of Jesus Christ — fully human and fully divine — and the unity of the Holy Trinity. Believers in these crucial Church doctrines began forming the cross with three extended fingers (representing the Trinity), keeping the ring finger and little finger pressed down into the palm (representing Christ's dual nature), and tracing a cross on their entire upper body so there could be no mistaking the gesture.

Today, the Sign of the Cross still figures predominantly in our prayer life as Roman Catholics. We commonly perform it upon entering a church (with the holy water as a reminder of

our Baptism); at the beginning and end of the Catholic Mass, a Benediction, or the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; when opening and closing our personal prayers; at mealtimes; and when passing by a Catholic Church (in recognition of Christ, present in the tabernacle). As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, the frequent, intentional use of the Sign of the Cross can help the faithful dedicate each day to the glory of God and provide strength in the face of trial and temptation (2157).

Now, each time we cross ourselves and proclaim, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," let us do so with an increased awareness of the rich history of the Sign of the Cross and the abundant graces that come to us through this powerful prayer tradition!

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ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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St. Anthony Preschool *continued from front cover*

“It’s important for them to realize that they can be creative using their imaginations,” Mrs. Santos says. “There are so many iPads — children are losing imagination at such a young age. They enjoy the plays because they have to use their imagination.”

The children have also had opportunities to learn about various careers from members of our community, including a police officer and a pilot.

“Whatever contacts we have in the community, we like to bring them into the classroom,” Mrs. Santos says.

St. Anthony Preschool is grateful for the support of the parish in many ways — in particular for the generous donations that allowed the school to

purchase and install a photovoltaic (PV) system.

“Due to generosity from our community, a PV system was donated and with that, we were able to air condition our classrooms,” Mrs. Santos says. “We’re very much supported by the church and whenever the preschool is in need of something, the church has been very supportive in helping us.”

Throughout all the moments of the day — big and small — Mrs. Santos is often reminded of the importance of serving these little ones.

“There are things that come up that make you aware that you are making a difference in a child’s life,” Mrs. Santos says. “Sometimes things happen and you know, we are making a difference.”

If you would like more information about St. Anthony Preschool, please visit www.sasmaui.org/preschool/. Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is currently filled. In order to be placed on a wait list, please contact the preschool office at 808-242-9024 or sap@hawaii.rr.com.

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.