

# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## SOWING THE SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP: *The Vergel de Dios Family*

Ask parishioner Tricia Vergel de Dios about her family's last name, and she will tell you that it is a name with a lot to live up to! The surname, which reflects her husband Rey's Filipino roots, is Spanish for "Garden of God." If you think of the people of God as making up His garden, then the Vergel de Dios family is certainly doing a good job as stewards of that living garden! Tricia herself is involved in several ministries, and seeks to make stewardship a meaningful part of life for the whole family.

Tricia spends much of her time helping run the parish thrift shop, which serves people in two primary ways - not only does it offer items such as clothing and books at an extremely low cost, but it also provides work experience to volunteers in need of community service hours. At the thrift shop, Tricia sees how the generosity of those who share their gifts of time, talent and treasure can make a real impact.

"One of the things I really like is that our sign says, 'Your generosity helps others,' and I love that



*The Vergel de Dios family — (from left) Rey, Jonathon (11), David (9), Michael (13) and Tricia*

because we rely on donations by people in the community," Tricia explains. "And we could not do it without [the volunteers]. They are hardworking people who juggle their schedules to give back to the church and community. They are generous and humble."

Tricia also volunteers at the parish school attended by her sons, while she and Rey have taken on various leadership roles in the Boy Scout program. Their work with each organization has brought different blessings.

"I chaperone field trips and do things with the school, and I love what I've experienced there," she says. "At the thrift shop, it's different - it's reaching out to the community. And with the Boy Scouts, it's interesting seeing the boys maturing and giving back with so many service projects. So it's all fantastic and different what you get back."

One of the great things about being involved in various ministries is finding ways in which they can intersect with one another to benefit even more people.



STEWARDSHIP

GIVING DURING THE

# Summer Season

“We’ve stopped delivery of the newspaper and mail. We’ve taken the dog to the kennel. The iron is unplugged, and the stove is turned off. Is there anything else we need to do before we leave on vacation?”

Aren’t you forgetting something? Did you remember to write a check to your parish for the Sundays you’ll be gone?

“But I won’t be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can’t I skip those envelopes when I’m away? After all, I’ll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn’t that enough?”

Many Americans, whether we have school-aged children at home or not, mentally operate on a school year calendar. We assume our organizations operate September through May and then take it easy during June, July and August. And to some extent, many parish activities do function on such a schedule. Our parish may not hold Religious Education classes during the summer. Our choirs frequently take a break. Even many of the parish staff members take summer vacations! Can’t our giving take a vacation during the summer, too?

Even as we form the question in our mind, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer long is that God doesn’t go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in

our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

God’s steadfastness in giving to us is the primary reason for us to respond by being faithful in our stewardship toward Him. But there is also a practical reason why we need to keep up our pledges of time, talent and treasure throughout the summer – the Church needs our involvement year-round.

Even though some parish activities are reduced during the summer months, the parish’s expenses are not. After all, there are still Sunday Masses and weekday Masses, too. The parish staff members still need their salaries. And of course, we need to run the air conditioning in our church during the hot summer months. Despite the fact that some parish functions are suspended, other activities may take place, such as Vacation Bible School. And although the regular parish Religious Education program may be suspended, the summer expenses are often the highest, as textbooks and other supplies are bought for the upcoming school year. Our parish has to pay its bills on a year-round basis, just like your family.

Our parish plans a budget for the year, taking into account the commitments that you, the members, have made. If parishioners do not live out their financial commitments to the parish, the budget will not balance.

Our giving needs to be maintained throughout the summer, just as God maintains His generosity to us. Our stewardship is a response to God’s gifts. And God pours out His gifts and His grace upon us all year long.

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Prayer and Celebration in Our Faith Community*

---

Dear Parishioners,

**B**lessings to your hearts. During this month of June, we remember our patron, St. Anthony of Padua, on June 13. Let us be thankful and grateful for the many blessings we have received through the intercession of St. Anthony.

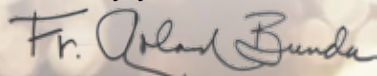
Prayer is one of the Four Pillars of Stewardship, which are the foundation to our faith. It is through prayer and the sacraments that we deepen our intimate union with Jesus who is our truth, way and life.

During these summer months of leisure, rest and vacation, we have ample time to deepen our prayer life. We can set more time aside each day to pray. Our prayer lives culminate at Mass in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays. The Eucharist, prayer and stewardship are interconnected. In *Lumen Gentium*, we are reminded that the Eucharist is the "Source and Summit" of our Catholic faith. With the gift of the Eucharist and an active prayer life, we are better equipped to carry out the other three Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Formation and Service. You might say we pray to help us seek and find how to serve the Lord and others.

Let us anticipate the coming events of our parish and school with prayer and celebration. This coming year, 2017, we will celebrate the 200th year of the foundation of the Society of Mary (Marianists), 170 years of the establishment of St. Anthony Parish and the consolidation of our schools under the auspices of St. Anthony Church. Let us thank our God for His faithfulness and blessings.

I want to assure you of my constant and daily prayers for you. Like our Holy Father, Pope Francis, I also must admit that I need you to "pray for me." I thank you for your prayers and loving support. I am truly blessed to be your pastor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.



*I thank you for your prayers and loving support. I am truly blessed to be your pastor.*



## LIVING THE FAITH T

### Nelia

Simple words written by St. Paul – “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7) – have long been a motto for parishioner Nelia Altura, and they have aided her through the more difficult and trying moments of life. Through these words, she is reminded of the importance of trusting in the Lord, offering him joyful service.

“My faith gives me the grace to remember that God is always there, merciful and compassionate,” Nelia says. “It reminds me to serve the Lord with gladness, to take my daily challenges as blessings.”

Looking back on her spiritual journey, Nelia realizes that her family played an instrumental role in leading her toward the faith. Born the middle child of seven, Nelia’s family was a humble one, often struggling to make ends meet.

“My family really did not have a lot of things, making it difficult growing up,” Nelia says. “As I

grew older, I realized that luxuries and comfort are not what you really need. That is where I really developed my love for God and my appreciation for family.”

Growing up, Nelia’s family emphasized the importance of moral and spiritual values. As a child, she remembers following her grandmother regularly to the chapel where they would pray the Rosary together. This led Nelia to her own deep devotion to Our Lady, particularly Our Lady of Perpetual Help, who is always there to aid her children during difficult moments.

Nelia and her husband, Dionisio, became parishioners at St. Anthony Catholic Community shortly after their marriage 34 years ago. Her two sons, Joneal (2002 graduate) and Philip (2007) attended and received their early sacraments at the grade school and graduated from St. Anthony Junior/Senior High School.



*Nelia Altura (right) and Fr. Peter Dumag who started Misa De Gallo on Maui in December 2001*

Over the years, says Nelia, St. Anthony has become more than a mere place the Altura family attends on Sundays – it has become home, filled with treasured loved ones.

“I love the people that I am surrounded with here at St. Anthony’s – the pastor, the staff, and the countless individuals,” Nelia says. “The relationships with one another are truly beautiful.”

Seeking to return that love, Nelia has joyfully served our community in a wide variety of ways, from proclaiming God’s Word as a lector and serving as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, to helping with the monthly Church cleaning, to leading the Filipino Catholic Club and St. Anthony’s annual Advent Novena – Misa de Gallo. Nelia



*One of Nelia Altura’s big contributions to St. Anthony’s Catholic Community has been the annual Advent Novena, Misa de Gallo.*

# THROUGH SERVICE

## Altura

also co-chairs weekend retreats through the Missionary Basic Christian Community. Led by her faith, Nelia humbly serves in each of these capacities for God’s glory.

“I’m not really talented in anything, but to me, these things are something that I can do for others because the Lord has given me the strength and desire to serve,” Nelia says. “I feel that I am an extension of the Lord’s work to serve the community. I believe that the Holy Spirit is guiding me and, although I have very little to offer, when I am guided by Him, miracles do happen.”

Describing it as a “win-win,” Nelia receives great joy out of bringing joy to others through service. In the process, she continues walking by faith, living it out daily through the love she is constantly bestowing upon others and her unfailing trust in God’s goodness.

“I am truly blessed with the joy and pride for my work,” Nelia says. “God has given me so many gifts and I cannot keep them to myself – I have to share them. I’m strengthened through service because it is a joy to serve. And as a baptized and confirmed Catholic, I have an obligation to live out the faith, serving God in whatever way that I can.”



*Nelia Altura and other parishioners enjoying fellowship during the Misa de Gallo breakfast*

## Vergel de Dios Family *continued from front cover*

“If something comes into the thrift shop that is helpful to the teachers, we give it to them,” Tricia says. “I also had the Cub Scouts here at the thrift shop a couple of times helping to sweep floors, straighten books and fold clothes. They worked hard and were proud – it was a great service project.”

Knowing the joy that comes from sharing one’s time and talent, Tricia and Rey are happy to see their sons – Michael, 13; Jonathon, 11; and David, 9 – growing into their own roles as stewards. In addition to the service projects they fulfill as scouts, they help their mom in the thrift shop and serve the parish as acolytes.

Despite their busy schedules, the Vergel de Dios family stays committed to finding time for serving the parish and community. Making stewardship a family affair helps keep everyone engaged in service.

“It’s not easy, but we just have to make it a priority and do it as a family,” Tricia says. “Like the acolytes – it’s something we can all schedule together. And Scouts, we also get to do together as a family.”

Through a strong dedication to stewardship, the Vergel de Dios family tends to “God’s garden” in the form of the parish, school and larger community. Now that is a great example of living up to one’s name!



*Last year, Michael Vergel de Dios was among a few of the Troop 49 Boy Scouts Troop to earn this Catholic religious award. The scouts who earned the award worked hard to build upon their knowledge of Catholicism and deepen their faith.*

## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE HOLY FATHER: *There's an App for That!*

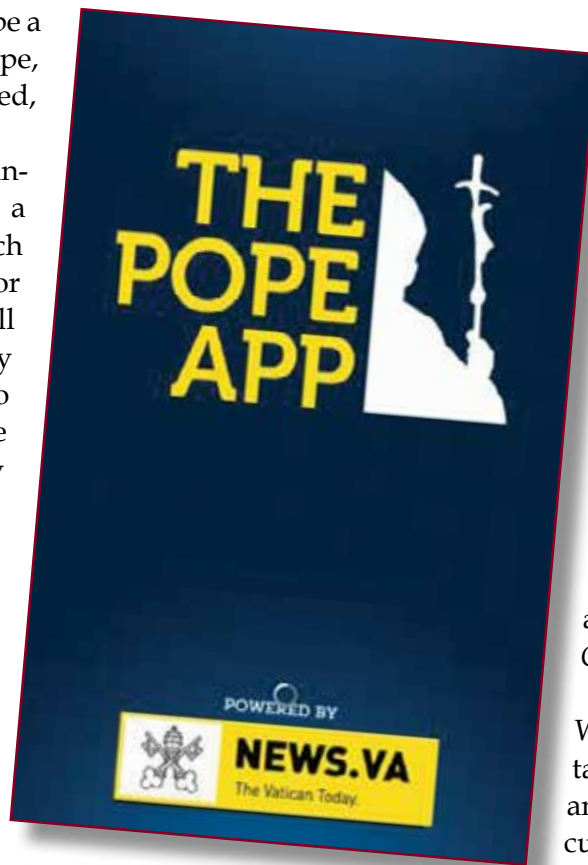
“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square - nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church - led by our Holy Fathers from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis - strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released *The Pope App*, which features a live webcam from the Vatican, along with quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings.



Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists are taking the technological gifts at their fingertips and utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective. His website also includes articles, interviews and his weekly homilies. Word On Fire also released the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* DVD documentary series.

Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also widely established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Here in America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the un-churched and fall-en-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable of the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources your parish, school and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!

## “THE BOY SCOUTS, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE IDEA OF STEWARDSHIP ARE NATURAL ALLIES”

### *Our St. Anthony Boy Scout Troop 49*



For almost 20 years, Boy Scout Troop 49 has been an important part of our St. Anthony Catholic Community. Within the context of the Scout Oath taken by all Boy Scouts is the statement “to obey the Scout Law.” The Scout Law consists of 12 principles by which every Boy Scout is to live – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. “Reverent” in particular focuses on what is expected from the boy in relation to his faith.

According to the Scout Handbook, “A Scout is reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.” Further, it declares that, “As a Scout experiences the wonders of the outdoors... he experiences the work of God. We need to play the role of steward rather than king – tending and caring for our world.” Living where

we do, surrounded by the wonders of nature, we can appreciate this admonition.

From 1997 until 2005, parishioner Mike Williams was the Scoutmaster of the troop, and he now serves as the Charter Representative. In the years since, parishioner Fred Ventura has served as Scoutmaster – he has been involved with the troop since its inception.

“The Boy Scouts, the Catholic Church and the idea of stewardship are natural allies,” Fred says. “Scouting teaches young men to place the needs of others before self while developing them to become leaders who can work with their peers and with adults. They also learn skills which will help them their entire life.”

The troop currently consists of 30 boys ages 11 to 17. Fred notes the stewardship efforts undertaken by the troop members.

*continued on back cover*

*“The Boy Scouts, the Catholic Church and the idea of stewardship are natural allies. Scouting teaches young men to place the needs of others before self while developing them to become leaders who can work with their peers and with adults.*

*They also learn skills which will help them their entire life.”*

*– Fred Ventura, Scoutmaster*

1627 B Mill Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Church Office: (808) 244-4148  
www.stanthonymaui.org

## *Boy Scout Troop 49* continued from page 7

“Over the past year we have provided hundreds of hours of service to the parish and to our community,” he says. “Our boys take their Catholic faith very seriously. For example, last year, 10 boys received the Ad Altare Dei award.”

Ad Altare Dei - Latin for “to the altar of God” - is a program through which Catholic Scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in the sacraments, so essential to spiritual growth. Scouts must be in the seventh grade or older to receive the award.

In terms of service to the parish, the troop conducts a car wash for the Fall Bazaar and makes laulau for the event. They also set up and cleanup for the Annual

Feast of St. Anthony. They have restored and repaired the burial site for all the St. Anthony Religious. Through the years, the troop’s 25 Eagle Scouts have performed service projects for the church and the schools. Of course, they respond to requests from Fr. Roland on a regular basis.

Within the community, the troop members are active in the Scouting for Food collection, which helps the homeless and those in need, and they staff the Pronto Pub booth at the annual county fair. In the past five years, the troop has sent two crews to the High Adventure Philmont Scout Ranch in the mountains of New Mexico.

*Boys aged 11 up to 18 are eligible to be Boy Scouts. Interested adults are also encouraged to get involved in some way. For more information, please contact Charter Representative Mike Williams at 808-283-3719, or Scoutmaster Fred Ventura at 808-298-5953.*

### 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.