

JULY
2016

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

“WE WILL SERVE HIM UNTIL HE CALLS US HOME” *Deacon Stephen and Momi Maglente*

Every Lent, Deacon Stephen Maglente and his wife, Momi, honor Our Lord's Passion by praying the Stations of the Cross. Some of their grandchildren join them, and the children are proud to serve along with their grandfather during the Stations. In fact, all four of the Maglentes' children are active in their Catholic faith, as well as their eight grandchildren. Today, their family has a touching and profound faith in God. But 30 years ago, if you told Deacon Stephen it would be this way, he would have been taken aback.

“For about a decade, when I was a young man in the 1970s and '80s, I stayed away from the Catholic Church,” Deacon Stephen says. “At that time, Momi and I were going to a parish that did not have a very loving atmosphere, and I thought that Catholics were judgmental hypocrites. We didn't feel very welcome at our parish, and we even looked into attending a Pentecostal church instead. In the end, my wife faithfully continued going to Mass, but I stopped going entirely. During the Prayers of the Faithful, she would pray that I would let go of whatever was keeping me from coming to church.”

Little by little, Momi's prayers began to be answered, and soon the grace of God softened Stephen's heart.

“In the 1980s, my wife and her friend started going to prayer meetings, and she would come home at night talking about the love and compassion she felt there,” he continues.



Momi and Deacon Stephen Maglente with their granddaughter, Talia Tonu

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Deacon Stephen and Momi Maglente

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“Meanwhile, I was going through a personal crisis. I despised a person I worked with, and the anger I had was really affecting me. My family was suffering, too, and they kept getting sick and I didn’t know why. One night, my wife encouraged me to go a prayer meeting. Reluctantly, I went, and there were about 40 people there – including the man I despised. Of all things, the priest at the meeting was teaching on forgiveness. I felt very uncomfortable – the darkness hates the light – and I decided I was never going back to the meetings.”

Clearly, God’s hand was on Stephen, calling him to a true conversion.

“The next morning, I kept thinking about Jesus and what the priest said,” he says. “I kept crying and I said to myself, ‘What is going on with me? I have never cried like this before.’ So, I went and told my wife, ‘Let’s go back to the prayer meeting.’ And we did.

“When we went back, I was overwhelmed with the feeling of love, and the man who I despised gave me a hug,” Stephen continues. “I had heard about Jesus all my life, but I had never actually heard *Him*. When we were praying the Our Father, I felt a gentle force that made me kneel. Something was really changing in me. My body felt like it was on fire from the top of my head to my feet, and I heard a thought in my mind, ‘My son, I love you.’”

Over the next 10 years, Stephen thought and prayed about being a deacon, and those who knew

him thought it was a great idea – including his parish priest. Therefore, in 1997, he started diaconate formation, and in 2001, was ordained as a deacon. Since then, he and his wife have continued to dedicate themselves to God’s Church on earth in beautiful, influential ways. Together, they coordinate a Holy Hour, including prayers for the unborn. In

the past, they volunteered with the Catholic Engaged Encounter and are now doing Baptismal Preparation. Momi also serves as a lector, as well as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Deacon Stephen now helps with baptisms, funerals and marriages, gives Holy Communion to the sick, and freely offers God’s love to whomever he can.

When asked why he and his wife are so happy to offer their time, talent and treasure to God, Deacon Stephen offers a profound response.

“When Jesus died, He gave the Great Commission, calling to all of us to make disciples of all nations,” he says. “Because we are baptized, my wife and I feel that we should take this heed seriously. We do what we can with the ability God has given us to bring people to the Eucharistic Table and talk to people about the love and mercy of Jesus. We will serve Him until He calls us home. It is the least we can do. We try to follow the example of the saints. Like Mother Teresa said, ‘Do little things with great love.’”

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– Deacon Stephen Maglente

“WE WILL SERVE HIM UNTIL HE CALLS US HOME”

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Stewardship and Discipleship Begin With Love

Dear Parishioners,

In John 13:35, Jesus says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” So many times, the Lord calls us to love one another. This was one of the Gospel readings back in April. On that particular Sunday, Pope Francis gathered with a large group of teenagers, and the whole theme of his homily was built around that message. It is a message that is equally appropriate for all of us, young and old.

Pope Francis is well aware of modern technology and modern communication, especially with how it is so prevalent among today’s youth. He also said in that April homily, “Happiness cannot be bought; it is not an app that you can download on your phones, nor will the latest update bring you freedom and grandeur in love.”



The pope explained that “Love is the Christian’s identity card, the only truly valid ‘document’ which identifies us as followers and disciples of Christ.” Nevertheless, we must work to constantly renew this card, because if it ever expires, we cease being witnesses of the faith. If we are really followers of Christ, then genuine love needs to shine forth in our lives. As Pope Francis said, “Before all else, love is beautiful, and it is the path to happiness.”

Who among us does not want to be happy? We all strive for that, and the Lord gives us a formula for achieving it. It may seem simple on the surface, but we all know how difficult it can be. Love – the kind of love to which we are called by Jesus – is work. Lots of work. It takes effort, renewal, conversion, and persistence.

During his homily, Pope Francis completely captured the essence of stewardship, and of love. He declared, “Look to the Lord, who is never outdone in generosity. We receive so many gifts from Him... Let me ask you something. Do you thank the Lord every day? Even if we forget to do so, He never forgets, each day, to give us some special gift. It is not something material and tangible that we can use, but something even greater,



a lifelong gift. He offers us His faithful friendship, which He will never take back.”

Gratitude is, of course, at the very basis of stewardship. It is this thankfulness that should inspire us whenever we run up against one of life’s many roadblocks – those things that make it hard for us to love as we should. If we rely on the Lord, we can accomplish this love. As the pope said in closing on that day in April, “Loving in this way, you will be recognized as disciples of Jesus. And your joy will be complete.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

LETTING HOSPITALITY AND GRATITUDE



We recognized our Grade School Principal, Mrs. Winona Martinez – who is retiring this year – for her 42 years of service. Fr. Roland Bunda presented her with a certificate of appreciation.



On April 12, the virtues of hospitality and gratitude truly came to life at our parish's annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. In the midst of a beautiful catered meal organized and served by our parish staff, the love of our parish family showed through.

"So many of the good things that take place at the parish are the result of efforts made and hours dedicated to volunteer activities," says Pastoral Assistant Br. Fred Silbereis, S.M. "Our parish would be a 'dead place' without these initiatives, but when they are present, we also sense the presence of the Holy Spirit among us, forming a local Christian community and family. The dinner is given by the parish, in recognition of the fact that there are so many 'unsung heroes' who do all sorts of volunteer activities – some for parish maintenance and beautification, some who find various ways of helping the needy, some in working with the youth, and so on."

Before the dinner, a general invitation was made to all parishioners who volunteered in any way since the last dinner took place. At the meal, St. Anthony Grade School Principal Winona Martinez, who is retiring after 43 years of service, was honored during a special moment of recognition. Pastor Fr. Roland Bunda presented her with a certificate of appreciation, and she responded with a brief speech of thanks. At a later function, she was greeted and given leis by many others. Door prizes were also given at the dinner.

"It is important to acknowledge volunteers publicly, because in this way, we are providing affirmation that helps them feel appreciated and valued, which we all need now and then," Br. Fred says. "Even more, I suspect that when the thanks comes from parish administrators, it means more because the volunteers can feel their contributions are blessed from above, and not only by their friends and neighbors."

In essence, the dinner was also a celebration of what stewardship really means.

"But this is one of the three key elements of what stewardship is all about!" Br. Fred says. "The core of a steward's attitude is to take ownership, to take responsibility, for the welfare and growth



Attendees enjoyed the dinner.

TITUDE SHINE AT ST. ANTHONY'S

of the parish. These volunteers give time and talent in all sorts of ways, many of which are barely noticed, and some also pay for items needed in order to do whatever they are helping with. I presume that they also pray for the people they are serving, and for the parish as a whole.”

In the end, the event also helped all to realize that the parishioners really are the heart of the parish community.

“I can’t speak for others, but I think that we do well to acknowledge the fact that pastors and assistants come and go, but the members of the parish are here long term,” Br. Fred says. “They need to be encouraged to think in terms of ‘this is our parish’ and not ‘this is Father’s parish.’ Stewardship is the attitude that expresses this. It reminds us all that we are not supposed to be simply consumers of church services, but participants in providing them.”



The dinner was a celebration of the true meaning of stewardship.

“So many of the good things that take place at the parish are the result of efforts made and hours dedicated to volunteer activities. Our parish would be a ‘dead place’ without these initiatives, but when they are present, we also sense the presence of the Holy Spirit among us, forming a local Christian community/family.”

– Br. Fred Silbereis, S.M., Pastoral Assistant



Attendees serve themselves at the food line.

THE TRAITS OF THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship profiler” who could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward, like on one of those television crime dramas. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward. It may not have the powers of a stewardship “profiler” or “mentalist,” but it certainly gives us some tangible things to think about.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

INSIGHT

Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

GENEROSITY

Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

JOY

Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the profile of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

NEVER TOO EARLY – AND NEVER TOO LATE – TO GET INVOLVED

The Andrade Family

Some people get involved in the parish as high school students. Others wait until their kids start school. And some find the time to serve the Church when they retire from their career. And every once in a while, you meet someone who can hardly remember a time before they were volunteering at their parish.

“When I was young, my mother made the malasadas for the church,” says Terry Andrade, who grew up at St. Joseph Church in Makawao. “It is the recipe they still use today for their annual feast and fundraisers. When I was 5 years old, I started helping my mom by cracking all of the flats of eggs, and as I got older, I was able to do other tasks.”

But Terry isn’t the only one in her family who served the church from a young age. Her husband, Howard, was an alter server at his home parish of Holy Ghost in Kula.



The Andrade family

“Our faith was something we were raised with since we were young, so it is a great part of who we are,” Terry says. “We learned prayers from a young age and we did CCD classes and participated in various events at the church.”

Terry and Howard, who moved to Wailuku when they were married 25 years ago, have been active at St. Anthony Catholic Community in the

years since.

“All of our children have had their sacraments from St. Anthony Church and go to CCD classes there, as well,” says Terry, of her four children – Howard III, Raymond, Joseph, and Maria. “My three younger children went to preschool at St. Anthony.”

For Terry and Howard, passing the faith on to their children and being an example of active

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– Terry Andrade

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service is a top priority – and it seems to be paying off, as their children follow in their footsteps.

“I currently do cooking and baking for the church for fundraisers,” Terry says. “My son, Raymond, plays the piano at the 7 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony Church.”

For the Andrade family, becoming involved in the parish strengthened their relationship with other members of the parish, and made the church community begin to feel more like “family.”

“As you get involved in different aspects of the church, you are able to get to know the people of our parish and community better,” Terry says. “[You see] the ways that they contribute, as well. The people at our parish are so nice, friendly and caring towards our family.”

Terry encourages other parishioners to find ways to get involved at the church, even if they don’t have a lot of time to give.

“Life is very busy, and if you can just contribute a little, it can have a big effect on others,” she says.

So, even if you weren’t volunteering as a 5-year-old, your help is still needed at St. Anthony Catholic Community. And there are plenty of ways in which you can become involved. Please visit <http://www.stanthonymaui.org/ministries.html> to find the opportunity that’s right for you!



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.