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ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

“THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO DO” *St. Anthony’s Joseph Williams*

When Joseph Williams lost his job in 1964, he and his wife, Martha, had three children attending St. Anthony School. He soon found another job, but his salary was less than before. By being intentional stewards of their finances, however, Joseph and Martha continued to provide their children with a Catholic education.

“Tuition is expensive, but you find ways to make it work,” Joseph says. “Catholic education is very important to me. I attended St. Anthony School from first to eighth grade in the 1930s.”

Joseph was raised by parents who valued stewardship, and his mother and father passed those values on to him. He believes witnessing the example of his parents fostered his life-long desire to give back to the faith community.

“If parents make some effort and help at church, then their kids will,” says Joseph. “My mother was very involved at the church. In fact, in the old days, she used to pick up Fr. Thomas in the car and take him wherever he needed to go. Fr. Thomas even stayed at our home at times.”

Joseph attended St. Louis School on Oahu for three years. He then worked for two years on Oahu rebuilding disabled military aircraft during World War II. Joseph joined the Army in March 1945 and served until January 1947.

“I remember it took 18 days to go from California to the Philippines by boat, and we thought the ship would sink,” says Joseph. I was in the Philippines for a little over four months and the



Joseph Williams during his days serving in the U.S. Army in the late 1940s

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STEWARDSHIP'S "SUPREME TEACHER" *Following Christ's Example*

Former President and Five-Star General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "You don't lead by hitting people over the head – that's assault, not leadership." President Eisenhower's words are both blunt and humorous, but he makes a great point. Almost any successful endeavor in life requires the benefit of strong leadership. And a truly effective leader does not lead by simply telling others what to do, but by providing a strong example of how to carry oneself on a daily basis.

This is no different for us in our lives as Catholic Christians. As individuals who face a myriad of difficult choices every day, we require a leader who, through word *and* example, can show us the path to living according to God's will. For us, Jesus is the supreme teacher of every aspect of Christian life, and His life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship – the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us – is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.

Jesus' nature of selfless service, documented many times throughout the New Testament and culminating with His death for our sins, is an underlying aspect of living the stewardship way of life. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops points out in its pastoral document *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "In Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way" (19).

Jesus points out to Peter in Mark's Gospel that this "self-emptying" requires sacrifice, but ultimately leads to "eternal life in the age to come" (Mk 10:30). But the Christian steward's ultimate reward is not his or her only benefit from living the stewardship way of life. By sharing of our time, talent and treasure, and living in imitation of Christ, we can relate more closely to Him in sharing, in a small way, in His sacrifice. "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with

Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

The next time you are frustrated or unsure of how to best respond to God's gifts in stewardship, take a moment to open up the Bible. Jesus may not "hit us over the head" in His leadership, but He does provide numerous examples through His actions and teachings of how to live as one of His disciples.

Christ's life as documented in the Gospels is a model that we should strive to imitate in living as good Christians. And as we have learned, stewardship – the sharing of the gifts that God has given to us – is a big part of Christian life, and one for which Jesus left many examples of successful living.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Stewardship: A Positive Way to Live

Dear Parishioners,

Blessings to your hearts during this month of August. I would like to welcome all our students and parents/guardians back to school as we begin another academic year here at St. Anthony Schools. I hope that you had a relaxing and refreshing summer.

We are excited about this academic year 2016-17 as we look forward to our Middle School. This innovative and creative transition from grade school into our high school offers many exciting venues in our academic and religious programs. This year we are anticipating of celebrating Jubilees as a parish and school. The foundation of the parish began in 1846 and the school began in 1848; 170 years of parish and school life. The Marianists will be celebrating their 200th year of Jubilee in October 2017. We are truly grateful and thankful for the many blessings bestowed on all of us.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, Stewardship is a positive way to live. It means feeling grateful and centering our thoughts on gratitude. In other words, our focus

is on the good things in life, not the bad. That does not mean we have perfect health or that all is ideal in our families, that we always sleep well at night, or that we enjoy everything that happens to us.

However, it does mean that when the good happens, we thank God. We recognize that good and are filled with feelings of joy and gratitude. You and I know people like that, don't we? We know people in our parish who always seem filled with joy, regardless of what may be happening to them or around them personally. To me, these kinds of people are stewardship people – the kind of people we all need to strive to be.

No doubt, you have heard that living a life of stewardship means living with an "attitude of gratitude." That is not easy, for you or for me. Let us strive to be like that nonetheless. As we watch our summer days dwindle away and the busier time of the year begins again, let us be attentive on how God has blessed us. If we do that, I truly believe that we can be



those people who are grateful and thankful.

Be assured of my prayers and loving support as we enter another academic year aware of God's presence in our families and in our parish. God bless you in union with Mary, our blessed Mother.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

Stewardship is a positive way to live. It means feeling grateful and centering your thoughts on gratitude. In other words, your focus is on the good things in life, not the bad.

SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH

One of the most beautiful things about our Catholic faith is that it is constant, there for us in all stages of our lives. The prayers, the Mass and the traditions are the same all over the world, and while there is comfort in the familiar, this constant presence also serves to beckon us back home when we have been away for a while. Such is the case with St. Anthony parishioner Charlene Ioanis, who strayed from her Catholic roots and was lost, then eventually found her way back to a faith that not only never left her, but one which welcomed her home.

Growing up on the island of Pohnpei – one of the four states in the Federated States of Micronesia – things were not always easy for Charlene and her family. Because her father wasn't in the picture, Charlene's mother worked hard at her nursing job to provide for a family that included Charlene, her three brothers, her grandmother, and a cousin. And because her mother earned just \$100 for a two-week period, everyone had to make sacrifices just so they would be able to buy food or pay the electricity bill.

"We were very poor," Charlene says. "But I was surrounded by strong women – my mother and my grandmother, for example – and they taught me many things about hard work and what it means to be a survivor. My mother always told me to trust in the Lord no matter what, and that it was important to do the right thing and to do it the right way."

Religion was also important, and Charlene grew up being part of two faiths – the Protestant faith of her mother's family and the Catholic faith of her father's family. When she was younger, she attended Protestant services with her mother. But when she was a little older, her father's family wanted Charlene to receive the sacraments, so they arranged for her to receive her First Holy Communion. Little did Charlene realize that the seeds of faith planted on that special day would one day lead her home.

"When I received the Eucharist for the first time, something touched my heart," Charlene says. "I knew



Charlene Ioanis with her husband, Molden, and youngest son, Golden

then that I was meant to be Catholic and that this was my faith. I loved the prayers and the rituals, and in many ways, it gave me my father back. He wasn't there physically, but I felt close to him through the Mass. I felt at home with the Catholic Church."

Despite the best intentions, life often gets in the way and it becomes all too easy to push faith and Mass attendance down on our list of priorities. When Charlene was 18 years old, she moved to Maui to attend college and got caught up in the busyness of life, including starting a family with Molden Ioanis and welcoming two sons – Hamilton and Holden. Church was not part of their lives.

Charlene Ioanis

"I was busy," Charlene says. "There were problems. I had to work. I just felt I didn't have time for anything else. But for a long time, I had an emptiness within me which I couldn't explain, almost as if something was missing from my life."

In the amazing way God works, it took the birth of their third son, Golden, to remind Charlene of the seeds of faith which were planted all those years ago when she received her First Holy Communion. For the first time, she felt something stirring within her to return to the Church, and she heard the echoes of the women in her life who had always encouraged her to do the right thing.

"Somehow, the birth of my third son anchored me and helped me realize I needed to return to the Church," Charlene says. "So I started attending Mass regularly at St. Anthony's, and that same feeling towards the Eucharist that I had as a child returned. I felt like a new person. But I also felt like my husband and I needed to make things right for us and for our family. So on Oct. 21, 2010, my husband and I were married in St. Damien's Chapel."

Today, Charlene is an active member of the parish and is involved with the Stewardship Committee, the Marianist group, the Divine Mercy Group, and the Charismatic Prayer Group. In addition, both she and her husband serve as Eucharistic Ministers and volunteer with the Bereavement Ministry. And because Charlene knows what it's like to have been away from the Church, she is very open about her faith and takes any opportunity to evangelize and to help people rediscover the seeds of their own faith.

"Some people are hesitant to come to Church because they don't speak English, but I like to remind them that no matter in what country you are, or what language is used, the Mass is always the same and will always welcome you. Always. That is the gift of our faith." – Charlene Ioanis



Charlene Ioanis' family – (top row) middle son, Holden, and husband, Molden; (bottom row) oldest son, Hamilton, and youngest son, Golden

And by returning to those seeds of faith – just as Charlene did – we are given exactly what we need in order to hear God's voice calling us back home to Him.

"I speak two languages, so it helps me to reach people," Charlene says. "Some people are hesitant to come to Church because they don't speak English, but I like to remind them that no matter in what country you are, or what language is used, the Mass is always the same and will always welcome you. Always. That is the gift of our faith."

A LEGACY OF STEWARDSHIP

When we think of what it means to be a good steward, many of us think of stewardship models – family members or close friends who have truly encompassed what it means to serve. For longtime parishioner Hilton Unemori, stewardship has almost become synonymous with his own mother, who “set the standard high” when it came to giving back to God’s Church.

“She fully believed in doing her part and contributing to the community around her, especially the parish,” Hilton says. “I think that example kind of rubbed off on the rest of the family.”

Hilton’s mother was actually raised into a Buddhist family. Emphasizing the importance of an education, her parents enrolled her in St. Anthony’s School for Girls during the 1940s. There, she was introduced to the beauty of Catholicism, leading her to convert shortly after graduation. Roughly a year later, she married Hilton’s father and began raising her own children in the faith she had come to cherish.

“She always emphasized the importance of our Catholic faith,” Hilton says. “And that is where stewardship really began for me.”

The value of Catholic education was instilled so deeply in Hilton that, after graduating from St. Anthony’s High School, he went on to study engineering at the University of Notre Dame. This proved providential for it was there that Hilton met his wife of 45 years, Maria.

“It just goes to show you the effect of my mother’s influence,” Hilton says. “If I hadn’t been raised Catholic, I probably would have gone to some other engineering school and then I wouldn’t have met my wife. We got married after her graduation in ’71, and then settled here in Maui, where we had our three children, all of whom were baptized at St. Anthony’s.



Thanks to the legacy of his mother, parishioner Hilton Unemori – pictured with his wife, Maria – has grown up understanding the importance of stewardship and giving back to the community.

So, the tradition just continued.”

Following in his mother’s footsteps, Hilton has become increasingly involved in our parish community over the years. He has served as a member of the Finance Committee for more than 30 years and more recently became part of the Parish Education Committee. The latter ministry has been particularly rewarding for Hilton because of his own experience with Catholic education.

“I know from a firsthand perspective education and what can happen important it is. With 165 years of and other families out there that – Hilton

The Unemori Family



The Unemori family – (from left) Patrick, Melissa, Maria, Hilton, and Mark.

“I know from a firsthand perspective the value of a Catholic education and what can happen as a result,” Hilton says. “So, I know how important it is. With 165 years of history, there are a lot of alumni and other families out there that have benefited from our school. It’s been really gratifying to just be part of this ministry.”

Another ministry that has played a vital part in Hilton’s life is Marriage Encounter. Designed to re-

pective the value of a Catholic as a result. So, I know how history, there are a lot of alumni have benefited from our school.”
Unemori

vitalize and strengthen marriages, this ministry had a life-changing effect on the Unemori couple when they attended their first encounter in the early ‘90s.

“It was truly relationship-saving,” Hilton says. “It was such a huge change of direction and attitude. In the process of pursuing various career ambitions, it’s easy to get distracted and move away from the things in life that really matter. In my case, the balance between my career and family life had been lost, swinging way over toward work. That first Marriage Encounter brought me back and my whole life was re-centered.”

Seeking to help other couples have similar experiences, Hilton and Maria decided to become more permanently involved in this ministry, assisting with and moderating Marriage Encounter weekends. Later, they switched over to Engaged Encounter, which they have been doing ever since.

“We do most of our Engaged Encounter weekends on Maui, presenting and organizing them,” Hilton says. “It’s become our mission and has really affected our own marriage in a positive way. Although we are giving that weekend to serve, we also end up attending and growing ourselves throughout the process.” Thanks to his mother’s early example, stewardship has truly become a way of life for Hilton – his way of just “doing his part.” In the process, says Hilton, it’s amazing how you always end up receiving more, becoming even more blessed by God’s unending generosity.

“I guess it always just goes back to my mom – I think of that standard and how I’m measuring up,” Hilton says. “We’ve been really blessed with a lot of good fortune. I just cannot ask for more. And looking back, we’ve always been rewarded handsomely in return for our small offerings.”

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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St. Anthony's Joseph Williams continued from front cover

conditions were very difficult. But, when I got to Japan, I was able to return to Mass. After the war, I graduated from St. Anthony School in 1947.

Joseph joined St. Anthony Church after the fire on Nov. 1, 1977, that destroyed the historic church. In the late 1970s, he was heavily involved in the fundraising to rebuild the church. Martha, who passed away in 2011, was also an active choir member at St. Anthony Church. "I got involved in the church and now our three children, Michael, Peter and Josette are all active in the church," Joseph says.

Before his retirement in 1990, Joseph served as the

manager for Maui Memorial Park. He used his professional skills to help with fundraising and managing the church collections. Joseph was also a member of the first St. Anthony High School Board in 1968.

Over the years, Joseph has watched the parish grow and change. He encourages parents to continue being witnesses of discipleships for their children and supporting our Catholic schools and parish. "Fr. Roland is a terrific priest and St. Anthony is a great school," says Joseph. "We've made much progress as a parish and will continue to do so. There is always more to do."

"Fr. Roland is a terrific priest, and St. Anthony's is a great school. We've made much progress as a parish and will continue to do so. There is always more to do."

— Parishioner Joseph Williams

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.