



# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## ACTIVELY ENGAGING THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH *Youth Ministry Program Revival at St. Anthony*

After a hiatus from youth ministry since 2003, parishioner Chiree Souza is excited to help revive St. Anthony Catholic Community’s Youth Ministry programs. Blessed with a heart for the youth, Chiree is passionate about the importance of making our youth feel welcomed and an active part of our faith community.

“Youth need to feel accepted and welcomed into the community,” says Chiree. “I think sometimes, we elders of the church forget that we have youth who also come to Mass every Sunday. I want our youth to become actively involved in parish life once again – serving as hospitality ministers, getting involved in things like liturgical dancing, and visiting the elderly at the home nearby. I want parishioners to see our youth involved and truly taking charge of their spirituality.”

One of the best ways to help foster this, says Chiree, is by hosting regular retreats for our youth, where they can bond with one another and encounter Christ on a personal level. Her plan is to host a yearly overnight retreat for teens somewhere off the Island, an annual day retreat, and then a retreat exclusively for seventh and eighth-graders.

Chiree also looks forward to reviving past events like the annual

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*Chiree Souza is excited to return once more as St. Anthony Catholic Community’s Youth Minister, helping to engage our young people in parish life.*

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## TEACHING CHILDREN TO LIVE A LIFE OF STEWARDSHIP

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**H**ow old do you have to be to practice stewardship?

Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children – even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

### *Sharing Your Time*

A young child can share of his time in a variety of ways appropriate to his ability. For example, during the day, a child can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with his parents or siblings. He can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from his day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous – such as being patient, generous and kind – is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.

### *Sharing Your Talent*

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. An elementary school-aged child can easily clean her room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry, or taking care of pets. Making cards for people who are sick or who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents – such as playing a musical instrument or football – to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

### *Sharing Your Treasure*

Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.

If a child receives an allowance, he can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If he gets money for his birthday, he can give a small portion of it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

### *The Most Important Lesson*

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is why we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.





## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

# *A New Year, New Challenges, New Opportunities*

Dear Parishioners,

It is a new year, and it is my prayer for all of you – and for me, as well – that we can take new steps on our faith journeys, and seek new ways to live out discipleship and stewardship.

Pope Francis once commented on his perspective of our modern approach to life. He said, “Certainly, possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want more, never satisfied. I have learned that the most important thing is to put on Christ in your life, place your trust in Him, and you will never be disappointed.”

The pope has been called “the world’s parish priest.” As we pray for one another in this New Year, may we all ask the Lord to help us appreciate Pope Francis’ approach to life, his simple way of seeing things, and his very basic way of appreciating things. I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship to Christ, and for

that matter to one another.

If we really wish to change our lives and the lives of others, there are two easy ways to do it. We are blessed with many opportunities in this parish to pray, but as much as it is important for us to take advantage of those, we also need to develop a strong personal prayer life. Recall the young Samuel, who was not quite sure what to do with his life, or what direction to go. When he finally settled on that one important prayer, “Speak, Lord, for I am listening,” Samuel gave us the hint as to what we need to do. Prayer is a two-way street, and part of that is taking the time to listen to God.

The second important way is to exude joy. Christ certainly called us to do that. Pope Francis has had much to say about joy, as well. The Holy Father says, “Joy cannot be held at heel; it must be let go. Joy is a pilgrim virtue. It is a gift that walks – walks on the path of life, that walks with Jesus... proclaiming joy, lengthens and widens that path.” We must



seek that joy and then we need to share it. That is truly our call. Joy translates quite easily into “love your neighbor.”

Yes, there may be challenges ahead in 2017, but we must focus on the opportunities, and then exert the effort to benefit from those opportunities. Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

## “I AM A STEWARD OF *Giving Back to St*”

As we make our New Year’s resolutions, and as we enumerate our aspirational goals perhaps related to personal health and relationships, we can also consider how to take the next step on our stewardship journey. One way to serve our faith community more this year would be by giving to St. Anthony School.

“Without volunteers, so many of our communities would not thrive,” says Ms. Kathleen DeLima. “It is the same with a school community, whether it is a private or public community – we need volunteers. Volunteers are the glue that keeps everything running.”

There are so many ways that men and women of the faith community can give back to St. Anthony School. Ms. Kathleen, a teacher at St. Anthony Preschool since 2014, views her teaching vocation as a ministry in itself.

“Realizing my occupation as a ministry versus a job allows me to live a more grateful and joyful life,” Ms. Kathleen says. “Speaking as a faith community member, I am responsible in helping mold these young people towards their full potential. I am a steward of these children.”

Ms. Teri Tavares, who has taught grade school at St. Anthony School since 1991, also feels that volunteerism is an integral part of her life, an inheritance she received from her parents and from her formation as a student at Catholic schools.

“I am dedicated to my students at St. Anthony Grade School and my faith community,” says Ms. Teri, who serves with Bearer of Light. “My Catholic education and my family values gave me the necessary tools to carry out my faith-filled values through my words and actions.”

“The preschool recently had a successful Christmas program and family night,” says Ms. Kathleen. “It was done with the help of parents. There were photo booths, prizes and a fabulous spaghetti dinner.”

Throughout the school year, many other essential things happen with the help of volunteers. Some of the everyday small but necessary jobs that volunteers do for the school include mixing play dough, cutting out letters and painting a shelf or sidewalk.

“Parents assist in many day-to-day, behind-the-scenes tasks,” Ms. Kathleen says. “This way, our teachers are able to spend more quality teaching time with the children.”



*Ms. Teri Tavares and her kindergarten classroom*



*Ms. Teri Tavares and students doing a group activity*



## OF THESE CHILDREN”

### St. Anthony School

Faith community members not only give of their time and talent to St. Anthony School, but they also generously give of their treasure, as well.

“Most recently, two families donated two new smart televisions,” Ms. Kathleen says. “Countless other parents donate items that are needed on a regular basis such as snacks, cards and other things.”

The support of parents and faith community members is invaluable for the operation of the school, as there are many needs that fall outside of the school’s budget. In her 30 years of teaching experience, Kathleen, and many other teachers, have reused or revamped materials over and over so that new objectives can be met.

“It is always about the children,” Ms. Kathleen says. “Times have changed, so learning and teaching have changed. Change means to spend money that isn’t there. This is where the faith community might get involved.”

St. Anthony School is grateful for the many generous faith community members who give of their time, talent and treasure, and for those who may make the New Year’s resolution to begin serving as stewards of our children’s education.

“I am thankful to all those who support St. Anthony Grade School and Catholic education,” Ms. Teri says. “Because of you, many students have had an opportunity to experience and benefit from a quality Catholic education.”

*Donations and inquiries about giving to St. Anthony Preschool and St. Anthony School can be made by contacting Carlene Santos, Preschool Director, at [sap@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sap@hawaii.rr.com), or by reaching out to the school office at [info@sasmaui.org](mailto:info@sasmaui.org).*

### Youth Ministry *continued from front cover*

Palm Sunday Walk. During this five-mile walk to St. Ann Church in Waihee, teens and adult parishioners are able to meditate on Christ’s passion and death through the Stations of the Cross. At the same time, they are able to become living witnesses of Christ love and mercy to others.

“The reason why we started this walk is because the walk goes through some low-income housing where there is lots of violence and stuff,” Chiree says. “We wanted to witness to those kids, showing them that there is another way, and hopefully attracting them to become part of our program. There is also a little Christian church that we pass by and I let them know the day we are doing the walk. In the past, they have invited us in allowing us to all pray together and then continue with the walk.”

Chiree also hopes to bring back the Good Friday skit where teens re-enact Christ’s passion and death for the parish family. This serves as another

way to pull our young people into active participation and has been very moving for parishioners in former years.

“All the parishioners used to come to me and say how moved they were by the performance,” Chiree says.

Sunday, Jan. 15 was the program’s official kickoff event. Youth were invited to attend the 5 p.m. Mass and then gathered in the church center for pizza, fellowship, games, and sharing.

Though Chiree has already been blessed by a strong and committed Core Team, she is always looking for parents and adult parishioners to become involved in the ministry as volunteers. This is especially important during retreats when extra help is needed for meal preparations. For parishioners interested in helping with the youth ministry, please contact Chiree at 808-269-8178, or by email at [leilani1958@aol.com](mailto:leilani1958@aol.com).

## A SAINT FOR LIFE

### *St. Gianna Beretta Molla*

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As disciples of Christ, the Lord of Life, we are called to respect and defend the life of every human being, from conception until natural death.

In today's world, a pro-life mindset is not only largely unpopular, but sometimes even dangerous.

However, the facts remain the same – the gift of life determines our humanity, and as Catholic Christians, we are responsible for its protection. With the strong examples of people such as St. Gianna Beretta Molla, we are able to witness the value of being a people of faith, a people living to build up a culture resting on Christ's values – a culture of life.

From early childhood, Gianna lived an exemplary Christian life. She attended daily Mass with her mother and her brothers, and was a faithful member of Catholic Action, a lay apostolate dedicated to worldwide evangelization. Gianna often wrote beautiful prayers to the Lord, promising to follow His will no matter the consequences.

As a teenager, Gianna understood the importance of obeying God's will and made a series of resolutions to always follow His guidance. "I wish to die rather than commit a mortal sin," young Gianna once wrote. Yet, at the time, Gianna was not aware of what God had in store for her life.

Throughout her life, Gianna constantly prayed, "O Jesus, I promise You to submit myself to all that You permit to happen to me, make me only know Your will." As her life progressed, Gianna would live such prayers in a radical way.

In 1961, as the mother of three and pregnant with her fourth child, Gianna was diagnosed with uterine cancer. To preserve her health and life,



doctors suggested Gianna undergo a radical hysterectomy — a surgery that would undoubtedly save her life, but consequently terminate her pregnancy. Gianna decided to wait for God's direction. Doctors removed portions of the tumor, but knew that complete eradication would require a full hysterectomy. However, Gianna was determined to keep her uterus intact, and determined to give birth to her unborn baby. Knowing the serious dangers ahead, Gianna instructed her husband a few days prior to delivery, "If you must decide

between me and the baby, have no hesitation: choose – and I demand it – the baby, save him."

As it turned out, Gianna's tumor had progressed so far that a few days after she delivered her fourth child, she passed away – a martyr for her child! Caring for the life of her unborn child meant the loss of her own life, but such knowledge never weakened her respect for life in the least. Gianna knew that her child's life was just as valuable as her own, and she needed to care for both of them. Gianna ultimately lost her life because she wasn't willing to sacrifice her child for her own sake. What a strong woman!

Though this seems radical, we are all called to respect the lives of the unborn just as Gianna did, and Gianna's fate only secures for us the reward we will receive if we work to build a culture of life, just as she did. In April 1994, Gianna Beretta Molla was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II, and in May 2004, she was declared a saint. Because St. Gianna lived as a defender of life, she now enjoys eternal life with the Almighty God! Let us heed her example and build a culture of life!



## REVITALIZED FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS

Our parish's Filipino Catholic Club has been revitalized, and now the organization is working toward increasing membership.

"Right now, we have about 17 active members," says Avelino Ollero, the club's President. "And we have 20 registered members."

The Filipino Catholic Club meets at 10 a.m. after Mass on the first Sunday of each month.

Fr. Bunda started the club about four years ago, but in 2015, it was put on hold during his sabbatical. However, early last year, Fr. Bunda asked Avelino if he would be willing to resume the group.

Avelino agreed, and the club met each week as the revitalization began.

The club's current primary goal is to bring members back. Membership is open to anyone who is a registered member of our parish, at least 18 years old, and willing to be immersed spiritually and culturally in Filipino heritage, regardless of one's heritage, as well as willing to abide by the club's constitution and bylaws.

The parish's membership is about 50 percent Filipino, with the group made up of those who are either Filipino, married to a Filipino, or have had a Filipino marry into the family.

"We've been actively supporting Fr. Bunda in his efforts at the parish [regarding the club],"



*Filipino Catholic club officers: Joy and Avelino Ollero, Pat Garcia, Joy Gumtang, Anne Diola and Jo Reyes*

Avelino says.

Ever since its founding, the Filipino Catholic Club has been observing the Simbang Gabi novena through Advent, and is planning activity for the May Festival.

"We probably will get more involved in the Marian devotions and the spring retreats, as well as get involved with other ministries," Avelino says.

These plans fall under the Club's mission, as outlined in its constitution's objectives:

- To become active in their observance of their Catholic faith at St. Anthony.
- To deepen and strengthen one's knowledge about the Catholic faith.

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*"Some aren't aware that sharing of time in stewardship is not only volunteering, but is also giving one's time in study, prayer and fellowship. When the Filipino Catholic Club was organized, one of our intentions was to introduce more of our traditional devotions, like to Mary, with the novenas. When new members come into the club, they are asked what kind of devotions interest them." – Avelino Ollero, Filipino Catholic Club President*

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## *Filipino Catholic Club* continued from page 7

- To be active in ministries and programs at St. Anthony, and work with other church organizations, especially other Filipino Catholic Clubs and the Maui Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs.

Avelino says the Filipino Catholic Club's main function is to support stewardship in the parish.

"Some aren't aware that sharing of time in stewardship is not only volunteering, but is also giving one's time in study, prayer and fellowship," he says. "When the Filipino Catholic Club was organized, one of our intentions was to introduce more of our traditional devotions, like to Mary, with the novenas. When new members come into the club, they are asked what kind of

devotions interest them."

Avelino says that one of the biggest groups in the parish is the Divine Mercy Prayer Group, with nearly half of the club's membership taking part.

"We believe it's important," Avelino says. "Our activities are supportive of the things they do."

In addition, Avelino cites his mother's regular praying of the Rosary, as well as her reading of devotional books, as traditions he would like to revive, with the Filipino Catholic Club as a platform. Such a foundation for these devotions would help to enrich the spiritual experience for everyone, Avelino says.

*If you are interested in joining the Filipino Catholic Club, or if you have any questions, please contact Avelino Ollero at 838-276-1869.*

### 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.