

FEB
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ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

PARISHIONERS *March For Life* IN MAUI

All life is sacred – and as Catholics, we have a responsibility to protect life and educate others about this truth. We must always respect life, from the tiniest unborn lives to the basic well-being of others in our community. This year, on Jan. 21, parishes across Maui joined together for the fifth annual Maui March for Life.

For the past five years, the Maui March has occurred in solidarity with the March for Life in Washington, D.C., which marks the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* ruling each year. The Maui March is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, and St. Anthony parishioner Norman Franco has been actively involved in its organization. He is a Co-Chair of the March for Life, along with Christ the King Respect Life Ministry leader Ku'ulei Cagasan.

“God has a purpose for every life,” Norman says. “Abortion is nothing other than murder – it’s genocide. It is scientifically acknowledged that it is a human life at the moment of conception – it’s not just a blob of tissue. It is a life, and God has a purpose for this life.”

“I started working on the March for Life when I was a Grand Knight, and I am very happy that it has caught fire,” he adds. “When we started with the first one, there were about 30 people in the march. This



year, we had about 100 people, so it’s growing! We also had a T-shirt design contest for the march, and Annette Scognamillo from the parish of my youth, St. Rita’s in Haiku, created the design that won.”

Along with parishioners from various Catholic parishes, Bishop Larry Silva also participated in the Maui March.

“He led the march, along with Msgr. [Terrence] Watanabe,” Norman says. “They were marching side by side. I think having him there brought many people out to march. It was really nice for him to show up for that, especially since he has such a busy schedule.”

The march began on the corner of Kane Street and Kaahumanu Avenue in Kahului, and proceeded

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PARISHIONERS MARCH FOR LIFE IN MAUI

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to Christ the King Church. Along the way, the march paused near Planned Parenthood to pray specifically for an end to abortion and for those in the building.

“We stopped and we extended our hands, and one of our Knights, Billy Perry, did a special prayer,” Norman says.

Once the marchers reached Christ the King, they prayed the Rosary and listened to several speakers make testimonials, including a speaker from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which speaks out about how abortion damages both women and men.

“There are no winners in the abortion industry,” Norman says. “Abortion hurts women, and it ruins our society.”

The march also served as a fundraiser for the local Malama Pregnancy Center. Various sponsors pledged to donate one cent for each of the 2,000 steps of the march route.

“This year, we raised about \$1,500,” Norman says. “The Knights of Columbus have a program where they will pay for half the cost of an ultrasound machine for the clinic, and we have successfully raised the other half of the cost. Hopefully, they will be able to get their machine by the end of the year. We’re happy to help them!”

In the future, Norman hopes that march attendance continues to grow, and that members of other non-Catholic churches will also join the Maui March. He also hopes to get more youth involved in the cause over the coming year.

“Every parish now has a youth ministry program, and we want to get them more involved,” he says.

“God has a purpose for every life. Abortion is nothing other than murder – it’s genocide. It is scientifically acknowledged that it is a human life at the moment of conception – it’s not just a blob of tissue. It is a life, and God has a purpose for this life.” – Norman Franco



“One of the things we are looking at is doing a movie presentation for them, showing something like the movie *Bella*. We also want to teach them how to make counter-arguments so they can stand up for the pro-life cause.”

By welcoming more people to the fold, the Maui March for Life can continue to be a source of solidarity and hope for years to come.

“My favorite thing about the march is the enthusiasm and diversity of the group,” Norman says. “That was our biggest joy.”

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

The Word of God: How Do We Hear It? And How Do We Respond to It?

Dear Parishioners,

A few short weeks ago, we completed our Christmas season. We are now in what we call Ordinary Time – but before long, we will begin Lent. This is one of those rare years when Ash Wednesday is in March – so, Lent does not, of course, begin in February this year.

The Gospel of John begins with the statement, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” We speak often of the Word in the Church. As most of you are aware, the first part of our Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. What does that mean to us?

Basically, there are four parts of our celebration of Mass: Introductory Rites; Liturgy of the Word; Liturgy of the Eucharist; and Concluding Rites. My focus in this reflection is that second part – the Liturgy of the Word. The main parts of that are a First Reading, a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, the Gospel, and a Homily.

We draw on Holy Scripture

from the Bible for the readings. As Catholics, we do not consider that these readings are about God, or about the Church, or about our faith, or a history lesson, or a nice story from long ago. We consider them to be God speaking directly to us. Thus, our attentiveness to what is being proclaimed is important. Are we listening? Do we hear? And then, do we respond in our lives? All of those should be facets of how we approach the Word of God.

For us, the Word of God is the living Word. God is speaking to us as a community, and He asks us to be faithful to His Word. If we pay attention and truly listen, God can nourish our spirit, and Christ can be more real and present to us. The Homily, the Responsorial Psalm, the Profession of Faith, and the Intercessions develop the Word further and complete it. The Profession of Faith is our acceptance of God’s Word.

However, the question for us is, how do we respond to the Word? Does it change our lives? Does it bring us to the conversion



necessary to live lives of stewardship and service? It is not easy, I know. Being able to listen, to hear and then to act requires time, practice, commitment, and a desire to fulfill all of this. That is one of my prayers for us – that we can hear the Word, and that we can bring it to life in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

A LOVE TO LAST A LIFETIME: *Ed and Marie Nishihara* *Celebrate Their 71st*

Some love stories were just made to be told and retold. This one begins with a dropped handkerchief in a skating rink, a courtship interrupted by war, love letters that crossed oceans, and a soldier's return home. These moments mark the beginning of this story. And although over 70 years have passed, this particular love story has no ending. For this is the remarkable story of parishioners Ed and Marie Nishihara, who celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary this month.

Ed and Marie first met in 1941, when Maui-native Ed was stationed with the Hawaii Army National Guard not far from Marie's home in Nawiliwili. Marie was at a skating rink with her friend and had just sat down to remove her skates when she spotted a handsome young man nearby.

"I was just looking up and I remembered having seen him at church—we always admired him because we thought he was so handsome," Marie recalls of their first encounter. "My friend suggested that maybe I should drop my handkerchief 'accidentally on purpose.' So, Ed introduced himself to me and asked me to take a walk, and then we came back and did some skating before I went home."

And so, a beautiful courtship began. As a Mess Sergeant, Ed made use of his exceptional culinary skills by bringing a freshly baked pie to Marie's parents each time he came to call on her. Soon enough, the whole family was enamored with this gentleman! For both 21-year-old Ed and 18-year-old Marie, theirs was a first—and true—love. Little did they know that over the next few years, they would need to rely on the strength of their love to help them through some difficult times.

On Dec. 7, 1941—not long after Ed and Marie's encounter at the skating rink—the attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted their budding romance. As Japanese-Americans were classified "enemy aliens" by the United States government, the fate of Ed and the other Nisei members of the Hawaii National Guard suddenly became uncertain. Then, in the summer of 1942, without warning and without



Ed and Marie Nishihara were married on Feb. 23, 1946, and celebrated their 71st anniversary this month.

a chance to say goodbye to any friends or family, the group was deployed to Wisconsin and then Mississippi for military training.

Upon their arrival on the mainland, the Nisei of the Hawaii National Guard were designated the 100th Battalion—informally known as the *one-puka-puka*. A year later, they were sent to fight on the Italian front and, after joining with the 442nd Regiment, would go on to become the most decorated unit of their size in military history. Throughout the years Ed spent on the frontlines, he and Marie continued to nurture their growing love by exchanging letters.

When Ed returned home at the end of the war in 1945, he visited Marie as soon as possible, joining

Ed and Marie Nishihara Wedding Anniversary

her family for dinner once more. On Feb. 23, 1946, the two were married – and the rest, as they say, is history! Seventy-one years, three children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren later, the Nishiharas remain devoted to selflessly caring for one another to this day.

According to Marie, who was recognized by the state of Hawaii for her exceptional dedication as a caregiver to Ed just last year, taking care of one another and bringing peace to family life are the keys to a long and happy marriage.

“We always took care of each other,” Marie says. “Ed has been such a good provider – he’s always worked hard. When he was a firefighter, he worked two other jobs on his days off. Our children were always educated and taken care of. We always got along – my husband says our marriage has lasted a long time because we never argued and we always settled things in peace.”

The couple’s shared Catholic faith has also been an essential part of their married life together. Over the years, they sent their children to Catholic school and attended Mass every weekend as a family. Now that Ed is staying at Hale Makua Health Services, Marie joins him for the Mass offered at the day health program every Tuesday.

When Ed and Marie face trials in their married life, their strong faith sustains them. Following the unexpected loss of one of their children in 2003, they turned to the Church for comfort and solace.

“We really did lean on our faith,” Marie says. “We went to Mass together and that helped us to heal. Edward was our oldest son, born on Mother’s Day. He was so compassionate and always looking after us, and then he went before us. We were consoled

when we talked to the sisters and they told us that he had done his job on this earth and God had him up in heaven as our guardian angel. That really helped me.”

A pillar in the life of Ed and Marie in all the years since they first settled here as newlyweds in 1946, St. Anthony has provided a wonderful support system for the couple. The Nishiharas’ daughter, Francine, is thankful that her family has such a strong faith community to rely on.

“I have to say that the parish priests at St. Anthony’s have always been very supportive, especially Fr. Roland,” Francine says. “He renewed their vows last year for their 70th anniversary. It was so nice having it at the church during Mass to celebrate with everybody. Father has always taken a special interest in my parents.”

For both Francine and her brother, Kevin, the enduring love they have witnessed in their parents’ marriage over the years has been a priceless gift.

“They are an inspiration to us because they have been together for so long through the difficult and the good times,” Kevin says. “Knowing that they have been committed for these 71 years, there is a comfort and a security that Francine and I feel in their love for one another, and in their love for us, too, because they have exemplified that commitment.”

The marriage of Ed and Marie Nishihara serves as a witness of commitment and lasting love to all of us. What encouragement and inspiration there is to be found in the story of this extraordinary couple who has called St. Anthony “home” for over 70 years – a story and a love truly without end!

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A HISTORY OF LENT AND LENTEN PRACTICES

When we approach the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we look toward a season of preparation, sacrifice and penance, culminating in Holy Week and the joyous celebrations of Easter. And while the liturgical season of Lent offers us a time for solemn reflection, it is also widely welcomed each year as an opportunity to be drawn closer to our faith.

But just how did this penitential season come to be? And how did the reverent hallmarks of Lent – such as fasting and prayer – become so deeply ingrained in our observance of this season?

To understand the Lenten season, it is important to understand the word “Lent” itself, which is derived from two Anglo-Saxon terms: *lencten*, meaning “spring,” and *lenctentid*, which is the term for both “springtide” and “March” – of course, Lent often falls throughout most of the month of March, and during the transition into (and renewal of) the spring season. In Latin, the corresponding term for “Lent,” *quadagesima*, refers to its dating from the 40th day before Easter.

This brings us to another hallmark of the Lenten season – its length of 40 days. However, Lent was not originally observed for this length of time. During the first three centuries of the Christian era, Easter preparations consisted of three days of fasting and prayer. In some places, this preparation was extended into the entire week prior to Easter – which we now observe as Holy Week. There is also some evidence that, in Rome, Easter preparation was as long as three weeks.

In its early form, Lent was an intense period of spiritual and liturgical preparation for catechumens who were to be baptized at Easter. At the time, many members of the community observed this period of preparation alongside the catechumens. But, as time passed and more people were baptized as infants, the connection between catechumens and Lenten preparation gave way to a focus on the themes of

repentance and fasting during Lent for *all* Christians.

It was not until the fourth century – upon the legalization of Christianity – that Lent developed into its current length of 40 days, which mirrored the length of Jesus’ fast and temptation in the desert, as chronicled in Luke 4:1-13.

Yet, interestingly, the Lenten observations of fasting and prayer did not always take place for 40 *consecutive* days. For instance, in Jerusalem, fasting was observed for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday – thus, Lent lasted for a total of *eight* weeks. In Rome and the West, fasting took place for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, with Lent being observed over six weeks. The practice of fasting for six days over the course of six weeks eventually prevailed, with Ash Wednesday being instituted to account for 40 fasting days prior to Easter.

And as the length of Lenten observance developed over time, so did the observance of fasting itself. At first, some areas of the Church abstained from all meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for certain foods, like fish. And while a person was to only have one meal a day, a smaller repast would be allowed so that manual laborers could maintain their strength throughout the day. Eventually, eating meat was allowed throughout the week, save for Ash Wednesday and on Fridays.

In fact, two of our most common and beloved Lenten and Easter traditions – the Shrove Tuesday meal and Easter eggs – developed from these early Lenten observations. Initially, abstinence from dairy products was observed during Lent, with dispensations given if pious works had taken place. Eventually, this particular rule of abstinence was relaxed entirely. Today, pre-Lenten pancake breakfasts, Easter egg decoration and egg hunts remain as enjoyable seasonal opportunities for fellowship and fun within our parish families!

LIVING OUT DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD

When thinking about our universal call to discipleship, it's important to note that Christ sent his own disciples out in pairs (Luke 10:1). No matter what our vocation, gender or place in life, we are all called to live out our spiritual life within the community. Typically, this means living faith within the parish family, but at times a more intimate setting is needed. This was the case for parishioner Bill Mitchell, who felt like something was missing when he looked at the many ministry offerings here at St. Anthony Catholic Community. There needed to be a group exclusively for men where they could share the struggles and challenges faced by them as Catholic men – where they could encourage one another and deepen their spirituality.

“Br. Fred Silbereis and I were sitting down and talking one day, and we just thought it would be nice for a group of men to begin getting together,” Bill says. “We felt that there were a number of ministries available to all parishioners, but we wanted to have one focused specifically on men, allowing them to share their issues and to develop their spirituality. We felt this was a real need in the parish.”

And so, motivated by their discussion and desire to “fill the gap,” the two went on to form



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I find strength in my own faith when I’m with other people, especially other men. The Marianist brothers being part of the Men’s Group has also been a great blessing. I’ve really enjoyed the validation of my own

faith through seeing what other men are doing with their own faith lives.” – Bill Mitchell

St. Anthony’s Men’s Group. Currently gathering the first Monday of each month, the Men’s Group is designed to provide fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and accountability in a relaxed setting. Meetings are open to any man 18 years or older, and begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Borges Room. For Bill, this ministry has become an important source of encouragement and support,

validating his personal call to discipleship.

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faith through seeing what other men are doing with their own faith lives.”

Beyond their monthly gatherings, the Men’s Group also facilitates various parish events, allowing members to put their faith into action. Most notably, they have served coffee and donuts after weekend Masses in order to promote their All-Night Eucharistic Adoration event, which has been hosted on various feast days. This has provided an excellent opportunity for Men’s Group

members to meet other men within the community while also promoting Eucharistic devotion within the entire faith community.

“We’re always looking for new members, and that [event] has been a good way to put us out there, allowing us to meet other men of the parish,” Bill says. “Men often have a difficult time sharing, making them reticent to get into something like this, but we always welcome new members.”

Because the meetings remain open, male parishioners can simply show up and see firsthand what the St. Anthony’s Men’s Group is all about. They can also contact Brenda Phillips at 808-244-4148 or Bill Mitchell at 808-264-9788.

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.