

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

INVOLVING YOUTH THROUGH THE “UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE” OF MUSIC

There is something inherently spiritual about music. It uplifts our souls during times of sorrow and stress. We use it to “pump us up” while exercising or during times when we need more energy. And when it comes to prayer, Christ often uses music to capture our hearts, drawing us more deeply into the liturgy and into a relationship with Him.

“I think music is kind of like the universal language,” says Ernest “Ernie” Mendoza, Youth Music Director. “So, singing for the youth, especially during the Mass where they are able to lead prayer through their music, is very important. I think, too, that it’s a great opportunity to show them how to further use their gifts and talents for God and His Church.”

Since most teens enjoy music, Ernie feels that the Youth Music program is a great way to get the



According to Youth Music Director Ernest Mendoza, allowing the youth to participate in the choosing and preparation for liturgical music helps them buy into the liturgy itself, becoming more active participants in the Mass and within our community.

young people more involved in the liturgy. In preparation for the Mass, teens meet with Ernie several Sundays beforehand at 6:15 p.m. There, they are able to help choose the music for the upcoming liturgy, learn the songs, and use their vocal or instrumental talents for God’s glory.

“I think once they are more engaged in

planning something, they will own up to it and take more responsibility,” Ernie says. “As long as our youth are doing more hands-on things, they feel more a part of the program. So, I try to really engage them in the planning part of the music, as well as the actual singing. And then, of course, it makes them more engaged in the liturgy itself.”

In the process of selecting and preparing the music, teens are also able to learn more about Scripture itself and the role of liturgical music in further conveying the message of the Sunday readings. This is

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STEWARDSHIP

THE FOUR PILLARS

You've heard about the three Ts of stewardship, but what about the four Ps?

The three Ts – Time, Talent, and Treasure – describe the personal gifts we offer to the Church. The four Ps are the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Let's take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

HOSPITALITY

CHRISTIAN KINDNESS

"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. That is why the first mark of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others.

Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don't know one another. To create a sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let's try harder than ever to be a welcoming community.

PRAYER

HEART-TO-HEART WITH GOD

"Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work," a seminary professor once taught. In other words, don't get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and family prayer. The two biggest obstacles to prayer are lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And we have to learn how to pray from other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

FORMATION

CONTINUOUS CONVERSION

Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply.

Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or "toy" that we wanted so badly, it doesn't really satisfy. On the other hand, we don't tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing, but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

SERVICE

LOVE IN ACTION

"Amen I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). This Scripture was one of St. Teresa of Calcutta's favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew she was ministering to Christ. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "To be a saint is not the privilege of a few, but the duty of everyone."

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you'll find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

We Cannot Be Part-Time Christians

Dear Parishioners,

May is traditionally celebrated in the Church as the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother. As the Mother of the Church, she provides us with an example of what it means to be a servant of God and our fellow humans, as well as how to obediently fulfill the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

As Catholics, we are called to model the life of Jesus. That can be difficult, and there are certainly challenges to living as a disciple of Christ. But living stewardship and discipleship brings intense contentment and joy to those who take that risk. As we hear in St. Paul's letter to the Romans, "All things work for the good of those who love God."

After Jesus Himself, we look to our Blessed Mother as an ideal steward and an example of what stewardship means. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her life and her ministry in a total spirit of faithfulness and service. She responded to the call to be a disciple. For us to be disciples, we also need to be good stewards of the gifts we have received. Our Church and our parish are gifts to us from God.

At no point in Holy Scripture does Jesus tell us that following Him is easy. We know it is not always simple and effortless. It requires dedication and commitment. Pope Francis has said on more than one occasion, "We cannot be part-time Christians and Catholics! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day."

I suspect that is how Mary lived her life from that moment she turned it over to God and His Will. So, let us vow together during this month of Mary to follow her example, and seek to be the kinds of good stewards that will make our faith community even stronger and more effective.

I pray that we all can find the strength to live and practice our faith as we should. This means being faithful to the sacraments and looking for ways to help and serve one another. We have a great parish – let us make it even greater.

As we hear in Holy Scripture, "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). Pray for me, as I pray for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.



“DEEP FEELINGS OF FAITH

The Blue Army

Holy Scripture invites us to have faith and believe – “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe” (John 20:29).

For a century, Fatima, Portugal, has been one of the most important Marian shrines in the world. May 13, 1917, was a hard time for many living in that part of the world, as all found themselves in the middle of World War I, as well as beset with economic hardships. On this glorious day, a figure appeared to three children – Lucia, age 10; Francisco, age 8; and Jacinta, age 6 – who were tending their sheep at the time.

An apparition of a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun, appeared to the children and declared, “I am the Angel of Peace.” The children were of course startled and a bit afraid. The lady said, “Please do not be afraid of me. I am not going to harm you.” Lucia, the oldest, asked the lady where she had come from, and the lady responded, “I come from Heaven.”

She wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. She asked the children to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to say the Rosary every day in order to bring peace to the world and an end to the terrible war. She also told the children that they would suffer, especially from the disbelief of their friends and families.

The lady invited the children to return on the 13th day of each following month. The children

were there in June, and the lady appeared again and spoke to them. Others began to come, and as the lady had warned, the children became the center of controversy. In fact, the mayor of the district kept the children from going in August, as

he sought to intimidate them and admit that they were lying. The children continued

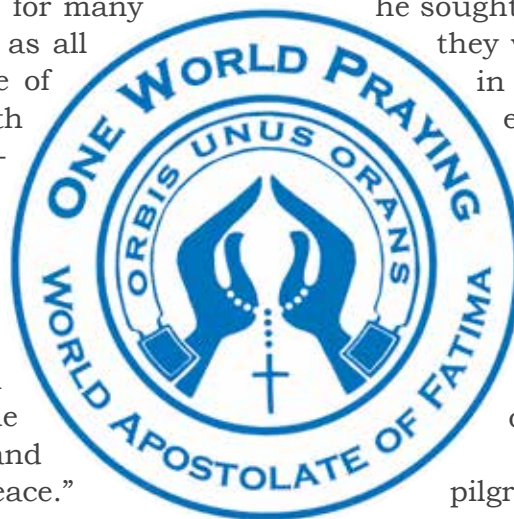
in their prayers and beliefs, and it is estimated at the time of the last apparition on Oct. 13, that as many as 70,000 people were there to witness and hear. The lady told them that she was “Our Lady of the Rosary” and asked that a chapel be built on that site. Today, the Basilica of Fatima stands on that spot.

Not only did that become a place of pilgrimage, but something else also developed as a result – something called the Blue Army, officially the World Apostolate of Fatima. Parishioners Cora and Frank Dongon head our Blue Army group here at St. Anthony.

“I happened to go to the chapel at the parish one day, and people were praying the Rosary,” Cora says. “I joined them, and it was a deeply spiritual experience. That is how I discovered the Blue Army here at St. Anthony. My husband, Frank, and I now coordinate this ministry, and we

really love it. This devotion to our Blessed Mother gives us deep feelings of faith and understanding.

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“The mission of the Blue Army is to learn, live and spread the message of Our Lady of Fatima in communion with the Church and in concert with the New Evangelization. There are no age restrictions to become involved. All one needs is a desire to participate in the mission.” – Cora Dongon

SHARING AND UNDERSTANDING” at St. Anthony

the New Evangelization,” she continues. “There are no age restrictions to become involved. All one needs is a desire to participate in the mission. We meet every Tuesday between 4:30 and 5 p.m. in the St. Damien Chapel to pray the Rosary. At times there may be discussion or presentations, as well.”

The Blue Army was officially founded in 1946 to continue the message of Our Lady in Fatima. The message of Our Lady can be summed up as follows – devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a daily recitation of the Rosary, and a righteous observance of one’s duties in life. Boasting more than 20 million members, the Blue Army is found at parishes throughout the world.

“We need people to understand that praying the holy Rosary, encouraging one another to be faithful to Jesus, and striving to do what He wants us to do is important,” Cora says.



For more information on the Blue Army Ministry, or to become a part of it, contact Cora and Frank Dongon at 808-242-5502.

Involving Youth Through the “Universal Language” of Music continued from front cover

where the universality of music really shines forth, helping the young people internalize Christ’s Word into their hearts.

“Liturgical music is seen as a prayerful way of bringing the Gospel message to the people,” Ernie says. “Most of the music in the Catholic Church is scripturally based. This is a unique way to teach them about Scripture and to allow them to share their spirituality through the gift of song.”

Though Youth Masses are currently somewhat sporadic, the goal is to eventually have a Youth Mass every month, allowing our young people to come forward more frequently as liturgical ministers and song leaders. This is just another way to pass on the faith to them and to teach them the importance of stewardship in their lives.

“Most youth don’t have money, so this is a great way for them to learn that they can still be involved in their parish, becoming a really important instrument within it,” Ernie says.

Always in need of new talent, the Youth Music program welcomes any teens desiring to use their voice or other musical talents for God’s glory. To learn more about the program and how to get involved, youth should contact Chiree Souza, parish Youth Minister, at 808-269-8178 or leilani1958@aol.com.

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF MARY *The May Crowning*



For many Catholics, May Crownings of statues or icons of the Blessed Mother have become rites of spring. Like flowers blooming or Mother's Day, this annual Marian devotion reminds us that the cold of winter is behind us, and it ushers in a month during which the Catholic Church pays special homage to Mary as the Queen of Heaven and Mother of God.

Generally taking place during the first weekend of the month, May Crownings bring children – often, recent First Communicants – out in their Sunday best to participate in processions and adorn statues of the Blessed Mother with crowns of flowers or actual gold crowns. Additionally, the children often place roses at her feet, and Catholics carry out similar practices in their homes by placing roses around statues of the Blessed Virgin, or even adding ornamentation to images of Mary. But where did this practice come from, and how did it develop into the tradition that we currently know and love?

The Coronation of Mary had been a popular subject in European art and literature for centuries, but the tradition of the May Crowning can be most accurately traced back to the late 16th century. Perhaps inspired by the practice of adding

ornamentation to Marian icons that had been carried out by some Eastern churches, Pope Clement VIII added two crowns to the icon of Mary with the Infant Jesus in the St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome. The crowns were eventually lost, but were replaced by Gregory XVI in 1837 in a rite that was to become the standard practice for crowning.

While the May Crowning is not an official liturgical celebration on the Church calendar, it is an important practice in honoring Mary as the Queen of the Universe, and its imagery is especially influential in the faith formation of children. As Liz Kelly writes in *May Crowning, Mass, and Merton and Other Reasons I Love Being Catholic*, “One of the defining aspects of being Catholic is devotion to Mary. I favor no Marian celebration more highly than May Crowning, the feast that recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title, but to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown?”

This year, make a special effort to honor the coronation of Mary through participation in a personal or public May Crowning devotion.

A LOOK AT UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS



John Duarte and Nona Iwata, our longtime Parish Administrator, go over details of our upcoming celebrations of St. Anthony's Feast Day and Our Lady of Fatima.



Several members of the planning committee work with John Duarte on our upcoming celebrations. Here they include Kathy Shimada, Anita Boteilho, Norm Franco, and Audrey Guerrero.

What an extraordinary time to be a member of St. Anthony Parish! Beginning in May, and continuing through October, we are celebrating our love for the Blessed Mother during the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Then in June, we will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Anthony, our patron saint who embodies our pride in our Portuguese heritage here on Maui.

Celebrating The Fatima Centenary

On May 13, we are venerating Our Lady of Fatima on the centenary of the first of her appearances to three shepherd children – siblings Jacinta and Francisco, and their cousin Lucia – in 1917 in Portugal. We are also celebrating on the dates corresponding to her other apparitions that took place on June 13, July 13, Aug. 19, Sept. 13, and the last, most spectacular apparition viewed by at least 50,000, “The Miracle of the Sun,” on Oct. 13.

“We’ll have a Rosary at 3 p.m., on May 13, followed by a procession,” says John Duarte, coordinator for the celebrations. “There will be Mass at 5 p.m. for Our Lady of Fatima. We will observe all six apparitions, and our committee is arranging all the details.”

Our Lady of Fatima holds special meaning for John, who is Portuguese.

“I have been there two times,” he says. “I hope to go again. I first went in 1969 – that was my first experience there. Portugal has changed, though.”

Although the details of our Fatima celebrations have not yet been set, the focus will be the Rosary.

“The Blessed Mother told the children to pray the Rosary,” John says. “That’s what we will be centering on.”

During our May 13 celebration, we are also praying as Pope Francis canonizes Jacinta and Francisco, who died in 1920 and 1919, respectively, during the Spanish flu epidemic.

Lucia took her vows to become a nun, and she continued to have visitations of the Blessed Mother several times. She died Feb. 13, 2005, and the path has been cleared for her to be canonized soon.

“Sr. Lucia had a vision about a horrible war, and that was World War II,” John says. “She knew

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UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS *continued from page 7*

why the conversion of Russia was one of the Blessed Mother's appeals for prayer. She told the children, 'My Immaculate Heart will triumph.' She will. We know she will – we know who will triumph."

St. Anthony's Feast Day

Be sure to plan to join in the celebration June 13, when we honor our parish patron, St. Anthony, on his feast day with a Rosary and meal of Portuguese foods.

"The Portuguese Clubs of Maui and different Filipino groups will gather in the evening," John says. "After the prayer, we'll have a Portuguese meal. A few of the Portuguese ladies from the Portuguese Club of Maui and other parishioners will fix the food."

We can recall that our patron saint was born in Lisbon and attended the university there. At the age of 18, he met five Franciscan priests who were

traveling to the Holy Land during the Crusades. When the five were killed in Morocco, their bodies were returned to Lisbon.

"St. Anthony met their bodies, and because of their martyrdom he wanted to travel to the Middle East to spread the Gospel," John says. "But his ship was wrecked, and he landed in Sicily. There, he joined the Franciscans and became a great preacher."

When St. Anthony traveled to Italy, he was made the first teacher within the Franciscan Order. He died on June 13, and is buried in Padua, Italy.

"Many people think St. Anthony was Italian, but he is Portuguese," John says.

John also reminds us that our parish, dedicated to St. Anthony from its beginning, has a long history on Maui, having been founded in 1848.

As plans for the festivities are set, they will be posted in our Sunday bulletins.

If anyone wishes to volunteer or wants more information, please contact John at 808-495-3116.

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.