

JANUARY  
2018

# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## THE STORY OF SIX COURAGEOUS MEN *Rebuilding St. Anthony Church*

Forty years ago, Nov. 1, 1977, the St. Anthony community was shocked and devastated. At 3:30 a.m., Wailuku firemen arrived to find the church engulfed in flames. Paia and Kihei fire units assisted. An arsonist had burnt down the beautiful church, which was the center of the lives of the community.



According to Philibert Vierra, a member of the reconstruction committee, the church was “where babies were baptized, children received their First Communion, couples were married, and people eventually died. It solidified families.”

In a letter to the bishop, he stated that “the church

was by far one of the most beautiful edifices in Hawaii, and it inspired thousands of people over the years in the worship of Almighty God and devotion to His Blessed Mother.”

Philibert Vierra (1930), part of the reconstruction committee, remembers the night of the fire. He was a graduate of St. Anthony High School in 1949 and served on the Maui Police Force as a Deputy Police Chief until he retired.

The inside of the church was gutted, and the support beams and walls were damaged beyond repair. Phil said that the building inspector found the church had sustained such high heat that the standing walls would no longer be able to support a new roof. Its support beams were burnt and the roof had collapsed.

The priceless stained-glass windows from Europe — which were donated by local families — the concert organ, crucifix, altar, and statues were severely damaged or consumed by fire. One of the church bells, over a century old, had cracked and the bell tower was gone.

*continued on page 4*



## HOSPITALITY: *The Cornerstone of Stewardship*

---

The dictionary defines “hospitality” as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.”

A Christian worldview can refer to hospitality as “Christian kindness.”

We see the effects of hospitality – or the lack thereof – time and time again throughout the Bible. Christ speaks of hospitality in Matthew’s Gospel when He says, “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The Old Testament told of the Israelites, as they wandered the desert for 40 years in search of hospitable environs. Even the Holy Family spent ample time searching for shelter before the birth of Our Lord.

It is safe to say that hospitality is, and most likely has always been, of great importance to people everywhere. Modern hotels and hostels often use the image of a pineapple to advertise their special brand of hospitality. There is no doubt that in ancient times, the distant lights of an inn or tavern struck a chord of hope within weary travelers’ hearts.

Indeed, hospitality’s meaning has not diminished at all over the years, decades and millennia.

Christians view the presence of hospitality as meaning the difference between calling others “guests” and “strangers.” Guests are welcomed with open arms and warm smiles, but strangers aren’t. Guests feel the genuine love present in a hearty

welcome, but strangers don’t. Guests often return for second or third visits, while strangers don’t.

As a parish, do we find ourselves surrounded by guests, or burdened by strangers?

Hospitality is, in many respects, a mindset. The same person may be treated as guest at the church just down the road, but as a stranger here.

Matthew’s Gospel tells of Christ as He reveals a profound truth about hospitality: “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” That is, “I used to be a stranger, but you fixed that when you welcomed me.” It’s a classic example of before-and-after. All it took was a change of heart.

Stewardship holds hospitality as an immensely important concept. Remember the “three Ts” of stewardship – Time, Talent, and Treasure? Well, there are also “four Ps,” the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Hospitality is mentioned first. Why? If not for hospitality, none of the other pillars will ever take hold. Hospitality is the cornerstone of stewardship, because it opens the door to a person’s heart and allows them to receive joy, grace, and love.

Hospitality must become second nature, if stewardship is to truly take hold within a parish. So, when a stranger visits our parish, welcome them as a guest. Perhaps one day, they’ll pay us a second visit.





2018  
New Year Resolutions

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Resolve to Give Back to God in 2018*

Dear Parishioners,

Another new year — 2018! There was a time in my life when this date (and others) seemed so far in the future. It is amazing how those dates start to pile up and stream by, isn't it? I have reached a point where measuring one's life by the years and dates is not as significant as many other things.

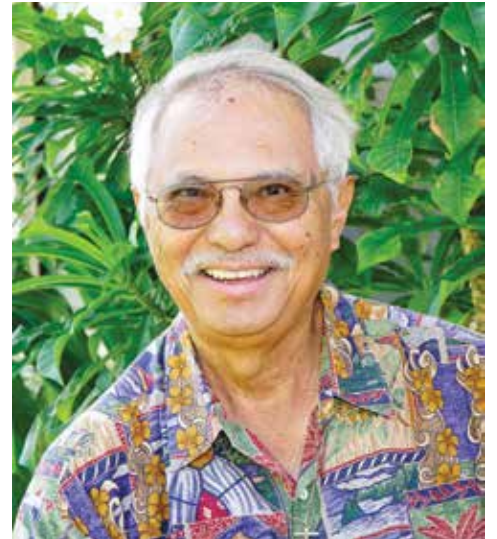
I recall reading somewhere, "The world around us asks, 'What does a person own?' But God asks, 'How does a person use what he or she has been given?'" This month of January is one filled with reminders of holiness — the official end of the Christmas season; the Epiphany of our Lord; the Baptism of the Lord; and the return to Ordinary Time, which, as we know, is not "ordinary" at all.

At Epiphany we hear, "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts" (Matthew 2:11), a reference to the Magi and their visit to the Christ Child. The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their gifts for Him is one we should all try to follow. Each of us is called to open

our gifts before Jesus and offer Him what He needs. I heard a suggestion once that if you have a problem with this thought, you should perhaps keep one of the Magi from your Christmas Nativity set and place it on your desk as a reminder.

During the Baptism of the Lord, God makes it clear when He proclaims from the Heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). God has given us the greatest gift He could give. He gave His only Son. When we think about the enormity of that gift of Jesus sent to save us, in addition to all the other blessings which God has entrusted to us, it is very humbling. God has given us so much. What do we give in return?

Making resolutions is common at this time of year. We will also hear this month about how Jesus called the first apostles. The Lord calls us as well to follow Him. Let us resolve to try to do that better — all of us. That does not mean we have to leave our work and our families behind, but we do need to put our service to Jesus. That should be our top resolution.



In *The Theology of the Hammer*, Habitat for Humanity co-founder Millard Fuller wrote, "The only truly safe investment one can make in life is what is given away." First and foremost, God wants us. That should be our real resolution — to give ourselves to the Lord. May we all do a better job of that in 2018. God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Roland Bunda*

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## THE STORY OF SIX COURAGEOUS MEN *Rebuilding*

There was a deep sadness and feeling of helplessness.

The first St. Anthony Church had begun as a thatched building built in the mid-1800s. Later, in 1873, the first stone building was blessed by Bishop Louis Maigret. It was from this church that Fr. Damien — now St. Damien — volunteered to serve the patients on Molokai.

In 1919, the historic St. Anthony Church had been built. It was widened to accommodate a growing community in 1938 by Pastor Bruno Bens. It now lay in ruins.

And so, St. Anthony community was left to pick up the pieces and start over.

Along with Philibert Vierra, Pastor James Orsini asked five other community leaders to form the core group of six to begin the process of rebuilding.



Arthur Ferriera (1919-1999), who headed the group as Chairman, graduated from St. Anthony in 1937 and was a Lay Marianist. He was retired from Maui Electric Company.



Hannibal Tavares (1919-1998) was running for mayor of Maui County at the time, and was elected Maui's second and longest serving mayor from 1979 to 1991.



Toshio Ansai (1908-1992) worked for the Wailuku Sugar Company, and eventually became a manager of the company farm. During the war, he enlisted in the army and volunteered to be part of the segregated all-Nisei 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. He served in politics in various capacities from 1948 to 1970, including the Maui County Council.



# g St. Anthony Church

*continued from front cover*



Robert Miyashiro (1921-2017) attended St. Anthony School through grade 10. He was part of the all-Japanese 442<sup>nd</sup> team during WWII and received the Legion of Honor Award. Robert was manager of Wai-luku First Hawaiian Bank.



Joseph Borges (1927-2003) was a fiscal officer for Maui Water Department and the first deacon in Maui County. He was a 1952 graduate of St. Anthony School and then went to Notre Dame University.

These six visionary men realized that the St. Anthony Catholic community was growing, and they knew that a church that would be multi-functional and could accommodate at least 500 was needed. The people wanted a church that they felt would give the greatest honor and glory to Almighty God, and a small concrete replacement warehouse of a church would not work. Thus began the tasks of finding an architect, builder, and raising funds.

The design of Architect Hans Riecke was chosen. According to Fr. Orsini, Riecke was inspired by the West Maui Mountains overlooking the church. Like the tiers of the mountains giving glory to the Creator, he wanted St. Anthony Church to reflect that beauty, to have three tiers — the bell tower, the main church, and the chapel.

Along with the men of the reconstruction committee, Fr. Orsini also credited the wives who supported their husbands' efforts and time working on the project, which often involved them traveling to Honolulu to meet with the bishop.

Muneo Kenka Yamamoto, St. Anthony class of 1940, was hired as the general contractor. He donated his services at cost. Phil Vierra said that the church could not have been finished without his financial assistance and expertise.

Because the bishop was not convinced that the parishioners would be able to pay for the new church, the six men on the committee, without hesitation, signed promissory notes for loans, and were willing to mortgage their own homes as guarantees if necessary. After securing several large interest-free loans, the committee wrote to the bishop, "We have absolute faith that the good Lord will help us find ways and means to raise the additional funds needed. In the interim, we are willing to borrow on our own individual credit whatever funds are necessary to complete the project."

*continued on back cover*

## OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

**“L**ift up your hearts!”  
“We lift them up to the Lord!”

These words bring us to the central prayer of our Mass — the Eucharistic Prayer, where Christ’s Body and Blood are made present. When we pray this prayer — or *any* prayer — we are lifting our hearts and minds to God.

Every day, our actions can be built on a foundation of mindful and heartfelt prayer. And with each prayerful daily action, we are inviting God into our lives. In turn, we are filled with a confidence and peace. Most of us would certainly desire more peace in our lives — and we can truly have that peace by spending more time with God.

During our Stewardship Renewal, this is our focus — spending time with God. We encourage all parishioners to listen to God’s call, and to challenge ourselves to live a more prayerful, Christ-centered existence.

Periodically, we need to re-examine the ways in which we’ll answer this call, which is the reason for this Stewardship Renewal. You will be receiving in the mail your Stewardship Renewal packet. Enclosed in this packet is a brochure that will lead you through that self-examination. It is a time to ask how we can better use our time, talent, and treasure.

- Do I make time for prayer? By myself and with my family?
- Are my prayerful *actions* — my talent — at work in our parish actively building the Church?
- Do I give a proportionate amount of my treasure to the weekly offertory?

***Commitment Weekend at  
St. Anthony is Feb. 3-4.  
Don’t forget to bring your  
Commitment Card to Mass!***

### How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

**Time Section:** Except for the ill and home-bound, everyone should be able to check “Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.” Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

**Talent Section:** You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if more than one person is using the card.

**Treasure Section:** Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to the parish.

LIFT UP  
Your HEARTS  
In PRAYER

SAINT ANTHONY  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



2018 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL



# Lift Up Your Hearts in Prayer

## Questions and Answers About Our Stewardship Renewal:

**I feel like my life is already too full with family obligations and work obligations. I barely even have time to relax. How can I possibly share my time and talents with our parish?**

We all have many obligations to our families, jobs, schools, and other endeavors. But we also all have the same number of hours in the day with which to accomplish these things. The issue is not how much time we have, but how we prioritize that time.

Before you fill out your Commitment Card, take some time to reflect on your priorities, and where God fits into your day-to-day life. Remember, living as true stewards of God's gifts involves giving back the first fruits of what He has given to us in thanksgiving, not the "leftovers."

**I'm not very active in the Church and, frankly, feel like it may be too late to get involved. Why should I fill out a Commitment Card?**

It's never too late to renew your faith life, and filling out a Commitment Card is a simple step through which you can immediately re-enter the life of the parish. Our parish community is not here to judge you, but to welcome and nourish you in your faith journey. Begin by checking the box that says, "Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days," and take some time to discern additional ways in which God is calling you from that starting point.

**I'm reluctant to make a financial pledge for the year in case my circumstances change and I'm unable to fulfill it. Should I?**

Your Commitment Card is not a legally binding contract; it is a pledge of intentions. Make your pledge based on what you are setting out to do to give back to God, and do your best to fulfill that pledge. If your financial circumstances change, your gift will likely change, as well, but it is still important to prioritize God first. Nobody is going to send the bill collector to your house if you can't fulfill your pledge due to a change in your financial situation! But we've all got to start somewhere, and it's important that we begin our commitment by writing down our goals for giving back of our gifts to God.

LIFT UP  
Your HEARTS  
In PRAYER



## ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

### 2018 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

First & Last Name (One card per family; PRINT PLEASE)

Street Address

City

State

ZIP

Telephone (with area code)

Email

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on Feb. 3/4, or mail using the envelope provided. Mahalo and God bless you!

# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

1627 B Mill Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Church Office: (808) 244-4148  
[www.stanthonymaui.org](http://www.stanthonymaui.org)

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 58040  
PERMIT NO. 3

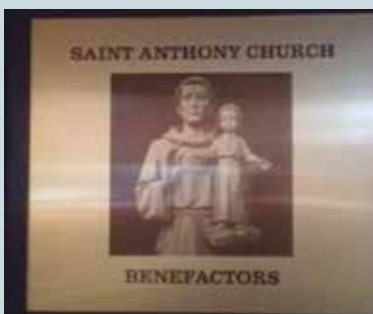
## *Rebuilding Our St. Anthony Church* continued from page 5

On Sunday, March 18, 1979, Bishop Scanlan came from Honolulu for the groundbreaking and to bless the site of the new church. More than 150 parishioners attended the ceremonies.

Fr. Orsini said the tragedy pulled the community together. According to the St. Anthony yearbook of 1983, help came from everywhere, not only from the Catholics, but also from people of all denominations, business community, lawyers, and others. They all supported him, "Whatever you need, let us know."

Two and a half years after the fire, June 13, 1980, on the feast of St. Anthony, Bishop Scanlan dedicated the new church and the first Mass was celebrated. As Phil said, "Things just fell into place — the Holy Spirit."

Today, in the vestibule of the church, there is a memorial thanking hundreds of parishioners, community leaders, and companies who helped to make this beautiful place honoring our Creator.



### 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.