

MARCH
2018

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERS DEVOTED TO SCHOOL UPKEEP

As far as parishioner John Duarte is concerned, all the volunteer work he and others do for St. Anthony School is a labor of love.

“It’s not about us,” John says. “Everything is for the kids.”

A project that has been ongoing for about three years was the preparation of a planter box garden for the grade school students to learn about, as well as to plant native Hawaiian plants.

Recently, John has been preparing and clearing bushes away from a wall on a building once used by nuns. John will paint the wall so the preschool children can paint their own murals.

“This is on the side of the building where they walk to class,” John says. “They’ll be able to show what they did. The children also will place plants along the building. This gives them something to point to and say, ‘This is what I did.’ To me, everything is for the kids. Education is most important, and here at St. Anthony, we strive for that — anything that can help the kids and get them away from video games, and get them interested in plants, and projects they can do.”

John is retired and could be doing many other activities, but says he chooses to devote his time to



Learning about native plants and caring for plants are lessons enjoyed at St. Anthony School. Here, planting tables are ready for little hands.

St. Anthony Parish and School. With his daughter currently in first grade at St. Anthony School, John is especially tuned into the needs on campus.

“It gives me a good feeling and it also makes my heart strong — keeping active all the time,” John says.

We parishioners and parents of our schoolchildren can help out, as well, around the campus with our time, talents, and treasure.

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Volunteers Devoted to School Upkeep

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“If everyone pitches in and does what he or she can to help with maintenance — help keep everything clean and up to date, that’s the key thing,” John says. “Donations of items from outside can help. All the gravel I use is all donated from TJ Gomes Trucking Co. They donate all the gravel and ask for nothing in return, saying, ‘We give back to the community.’”

During the summer, John mows the lawn and runs the weed eater around the garden at least once a week.

“That’s whether it needs it or not,” he says. “I try to keep it nice and the grass short.”

He would like to build a small greenhouse for the students from any donations he receives, and with any physical help anyone would like to offer.

John cites Richard Hoopii’s donations of ti plants and other plants to help beautify the school. Some of the plants are being placed along a roadway, and the ti plants have been placed in the cafeteria and other

locations in the school. The Hawaiian hula instructor uses the ti plants for class and in making leis.

“Richard and his children rake the plant areas and make sure the grounds are clean of all weeds,” John says. “He gives a lot of his time to the church and school.”



Volunteer John Duarte cleared the bushes away from this wall and will prepare it for our preschool children to paint murals.

Interested in joining the St. Anthony School volunteer crew or making a donation? Please contact John Duarte at 808-276-3846, or the church office at 808-244-4148. “The kids are our future,” John says. “I’d like the kids to feel good about where they go to school, and hope they will want to continue on with their education.”

Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, March 28
6 p.m., Tenebrae Service

Thursday, March 29
6 p.m., Holy Thursday Mass

Friday, March 30
12 p.m., Stations of the Cross
6 p.m., Good Friday Prayer Service

Saturday, March 31
7 p.m., Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 1
7 a.m., Easter Mass
9 a.m., Easter Mass
(No evening Mass on Easter Sunday)

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

March — A Time to Take a Close Look at the Examples We Follow

Dear Parishioners,

This month of March is a significant time for us as Catholics. We are in the midst of Lent, and then we celebrate Holy Week, with Easter occurring just after the end of the month, on April 1. In addition, many may point to the month of March as a time we celebrate the Irish on March 17, the Feast of St. Patrick.

However, two days after that is the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19 — and for many in the world, that is more important. St. Joseph was, of course, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster father of Jesus Christ.

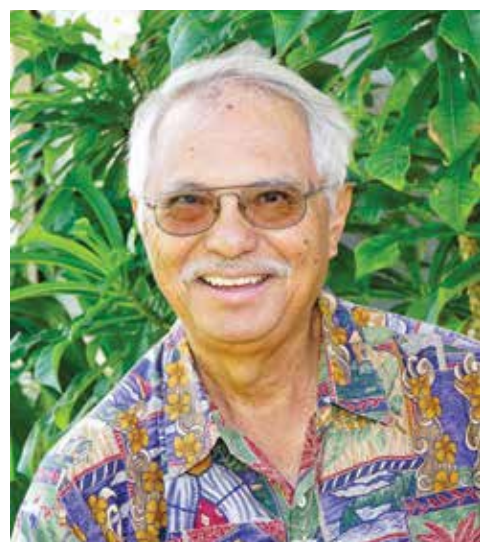
Everything we know about Joseph comes to us from Holy Scripture. It might be said that, in order to understand him completely, we must read between the lines. The Catholic Church has designated the month of March as the month of St. Joseph. Yet, there is not a single example of Joseph saying something that can be quoted in the Bible. We can assume he was a man of few words — in turn, we may consider that he speaks to us through his actions. It is also clear that he was a humble man. Many point

to him as an example of what a good father is and should be.

St. Joseph provides an example to all of us. Think of some of his strengths — he was obedient; he put his own needs aside to assure that Jesus and Mary were cared for; he surely trusted in God, even when God's will may not have made complete sense to him.

Those traits give each of us some idea of what we need to do in life. Do we only embrace those parts of our faith that make sense to us or that we find agreeable? Do we put the needs of others before our own? Our lives are filled with crosses and challenges, but do we trust in the Lord as Joseph did? Do our actions show us to be good Catholics and Christians? What kinds of examples are we setting?

Lent and Easter are times for us to look closely at the answers to these questions. Joseph was a carpenter, a worker — and he obviously was not a man of wealth or prestige. By the time Jesus' public ministry begins, Joseph seems to disappear. Nevertheless, he was a man of royal origins. When St. Luke introduces him to us in



Luke 1, he calls him “Joseph, of the house of David.”

All of this leads us to know and believe that Joseph was someone we would classify as a “good steward.” Who do we look up to? Do we seek to emulate people who are like Joseph, or are our role models more worldly and more successful in the eyes of others? St. Joseph is a wonderful example for us. We all need to be like him in many, many ways.

God bless you during this holy time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

*Tommy Duarte Reflects on **History** and*

For Tommy Duarte, St. Anthony School and church are more than just a place to learn and worship — this faith community has now been a central part of his family’s life for four generations! Tommy has been a parishioner at St. Anthony for 73 years, with his years in the Army being the only time he has spent away from our community. His father was a St. Anthony School graduate, and he and all of his siblings followed in those footsteps. In addition, all of Tommy’s children and four of his grandchildren have also attended our parish school, making this a decades-long family tradition for the Duartes!

Tommy will never forget the great gift of education he received during his years at the school, where he learned much more than the standard textbook lessons.

“I like the way they taught us that we are responsible for everybody and everybody is

responsible for us,” he says. “They taught us to love and respect — we don’t have to like a person, but we always love and respect everyone. They also taught that the most important thing in life is helping others, and I believe in that. It was compassionate and strict, and there were respect and fairness always.”

Tommy met his wife, Phyllis, when she transferred from St. Joseph to St. Anthony after the eighth grade. She was a freshman and Tommy was a sophomore when they started dating, and they married just after Phyllis graduated. The couple looks forward to celebrating their 58th anniversary this year!

Following their graduation from St. Anthony School, both Tommy and Phyllis have spent countless hours, days and years volunteering at the school. Putting their own four children through the school, the Duartes had the opportunity to help out in many capacities. Tommy



The Duarte family — (from left) Valerie, Linda, Phyllis, Tommy, Tammy and Allen

Family Tradition at St. Anthony School

often did painting and repair jobs around the building, in addition to coaching track and field for 35 years. Phyllis volunteered in all grades up through high school, as each of her children progressed through the school.

Looking back, Phyllis is thankful that she was able to attend a Catholic school and send her children there, as well.

“It was a Catholic school, and I liked being at a Catholic school,” she recalls. “And of course, that’s where I met Tommy. I was attracted to him because of his strong faith. We were both strong in the faith, so there was no question we would raise our children in the Church. St. Anthony was the best place for them to be, primarily because of the Catholic education and the total exposure to Catholicism.”

Of course, this is the true value of the Catholic education — in addition to the academic subjects, children are also taught so many life lessons in the faith. To this day, Tommy still remembers clearly an experience at the school that forever shaped him.

“Every once in a while, I think about this story,” he recounts. “It was my senior year and the principal was a brother that I loved, and he caught me violating a school rule. I could see on his face how hurt and disappointed he was. From that lesson, I think that when Jesus was suffering — the scourging and the carrying of the cross, all of it — the worst pain I think he felt was the betrayal of his friend, Judas. When I do something that I shouldn’t do, I still think of that and remember that brother.

“Years after that happened, one of the guys I

coached and respected violated one of my major rules, and I remembered when I had done the same and was forgiven,” Tommy continues. “Now, that [former student] and I still golf together.”

The faith that was instilled in Tommy by his parents and teachers has helped him get through the trials of life. When he was sent to Vietnam, leaving behind his wife and four children, he began carrying a rosary in his pocket to remind him of his faith. Now, he carries a scapular in his pocket that he touches throughout the day to ask God for help and thank Him for blessings.

Knowing what a great effect his teachers had on his life, Tommy will remain forever grateful for the foundation of faith he received at St. Anthony School.

“I really appreciated some of the teachers because they didn’t just preach Catholic education, but they showed by example,” he says. “If it weren’t for the patience of the Marianist nuns and brothers, I don’t know what would have happened to me, because I was mischievous! Some of them I will never forget. I loved them, and they showed a lot of love and patience with me.”

Today, one of the greatest things Tommy sees happening at the school is the amount of support that alumni continue to show for their alma mater. The Duartes feel blessed to be a part of our church and school community, and look hopefully toward the coming generations to keep the faith here at St. Anthony!

“We love the school too much to let it go,” Tommy says. “I’ve met a lot of great people working and volunteering in the school, and a lot of the alumni have come back. We need the alumni — they are our foundation to continue and get bigger.”

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A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN OUR PRAYER

The Presentation of the Gifts

Occasionally, you might hear someone jokingly refer to “halftime” during Mass – the interval following the Prayers of the Faithful, as the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins. It can be easy, even tempting, to zone out as you sit, waiting for the collection basket to make its way to your pew.

But if you pay attention, you’ll have the opportunity to enter into something deeper – a significant moment in our prayer.

It’s mentioned by St. Justin Martyr, one of the earliest Christian writers, when describing the Mass in the second century, “Bread is brought up and wine and water...”

This practice, of people bringing up the gifts, has been part of our Catholic tradition

from the very beginning. Although we might think of this action as being merely practical, in reality, it serves a much deeper spiritual purpose.

Each Sunday Mass, someone is chosen, whether an usher, or another member of the parish, to bring forward “the gifts” – bread, wine, and in many cases, the collection of money that has been gathered moments before, from the generosity of the congregation. These gifts not only symbolize, but also in reality, are the work of human hands. The bread and wine are fruit of God’s creation, which, through the effort of human hands, are made into the gifts that we present to the Lord.

Certainly, the collection that is presented to the priest also serves to represent the work and sacrifices of the previous week. Sharing our monetary “treasures” is one of the ways that we embrace stewardship. It’s an opportunity to gener-



ously give back to the Lord, from the fruit of our work.

In his book *What Happens At Mass*, Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB explains, “...We should not think of the collection of money at this point as some sort of banal, dirty but necessary affair. Money is our work. Money is hours of our lives. And now we give it away, we sacrifice it, for the work of the Church.”

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs Christians to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1).

The physical act of carrying the gifts forward to the priest is meant to serve as a tangible reminder of the fact that we are all called to stewardship. We are all called to present to God our

lives – our work, our talents, the struggles and victories of the past week – as an offering and gift to God.

Those who bring forward the gifts each week have the privilege and responsibility of remembering what their action represents – that we are called to give generously of our time, talent and treasure to God, who gives us His very self, at Mass. And for those sitting in the pews, tempted to “check out” for a few minutes, seeing the gifts being brought forward should serve as a powerful reminder to offer our lives back to God, through serving and honoring Him.

So next week, don’t just sit back and wait for the “halftime show.” Come to Mass a few minutes early and approach an usher to ask if you and/or your family may bring up the gifts that week. Don’t be surprised if you start to notice a change in your heart and a desire to be even more generous with God in the coming week!

MEET MICHAEL VICTORINO

Living a Life of Faith, Gratitude and Service

For parishioner Michael Victorino, approaching every day with a heart filled with gratitude truly has a major impact.

“If we could take a moment every day to say, ‘Lord, thank you! Thank you for the food I’m about to receive, for the job I have, thank you for my children and grandchildren’ — when you think that way, the world looks a lot better,” Michael says.

Michael has been a parishioner at St. Anthony since moving to the area in 1973, from Hilo. Born and raised Catholic, he attended Catholic schools and first became involved as an altar server in fifth grade.

However, life has not always been easy, and for Michael, who has been through a number of challenging circumstances in his life — including being seriously injured in an accident involving a drunk driver and battling cancer — the secret to finding joy in the midst of trials is prayer, and your family and community.

“Because of my faith in God and our Church and our beliefs, I’ve been able to overcome,” Michael says. “The power of prayer has always been very important. God is your rock, your foundation, and your family is the building around your foundation. Also having our clergy and (people) who have very strong and committed values helps in times of need. Knowing there are people out there that you can seek help from and not being afraid to ask for help, it’s important.

“When you’re involved in the church or in our school or our community, you become more connected to people, and connecting with people, you form that relationship,” he continues. “God puts these people in front of you for you to help, and sometimes vice versa, for them to help you.”

Giving back to the community is a way that



Michael and Joycelyn Victorino

Michael intentionally focuses on his blessings, rather than struggles.

“God gave me another chance, so I’ve got to make the best of it,” he says, with a smile.

Michael currently serves as the State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus and has been involved with many fundraising bazaars and school events over the years, as his two sons went through Catholic education. Michael’s wife, Joycelyn, is also very involved, and has served by cleaning the church for the past 25 years. Together, they participate in the March for Life and promoting other pro-life legislation.

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“We, the Knights, and my family, have always made ourselves available whenever and wherever we are needed,” Michael says. “The more I got involved, the more I loved it.”

Being involved in service has also strengthened and deepened Michael’s faith.

“The more involvement I’ve had with our churches and schools and parishioners, the stronger my faith in God had been,” Michael says. “I believe all challenges can be met with the Lord next to you.”

Michael encourages his fellow parishioners to find ways to give back to the parish, school and

community, quoting the famous line from John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address.

“Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country,” Michael says. “Reach out. Reach out to our clergy and our lay people and our school. Ask if they need help. See if there’s something you can do.

“You don’t have to wait for the community to ask you for help,” he adds. “Go ask them, ‘What can I do?’ ‘What can I participate in?’ Ask if you can be of assistance in any way, and God will lead you.”

“The more involvement I’ve had with our churches and schools and parishioners, the stronger my faith in God had been. I believe all challenges can be met with the Lord next to you.” — Michael Victorino

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.