



ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

MAY DAY CELEBRATION SHINES LIGHT ON HAWAIIAN CULTURE

St. Anthony School is planning another joyous celebration of May Day with songs and traditional dances, all paying homage to our vibrant Hawaiian history and culture.

Karen Takeshita, grade school physical education instructor and after-school director, has been busy teaching our younger students dances and songs for their program, “Island Style,” set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 2 in the Church Center.

“We’ll be doing dances from all the different islands,” she says.

A new addition to the program this year will be the dance performance by the teachers and staff.

During this year’s celebration of May Day, the Grade School students will honor significant Hawaiian monarchs through songs that will speak about the islands. The islands’ queens also will be honored, as is the tradition of May Day.

A portion of the program will be a student presentation on our island’s history.

While the event celebrates Hawaiian history and culture, the program also gives the students the opportunity to enrich their own understanding of this history.

“A lot of kids don’t travel to the different islands,



It is a joyful celebration!

and this helps them understand what we have,” Mrs. Takeshita says. “With our eight major islands, many don’t get to see them. This gives them an outlook of life there and what people do. It teaches them a lot about the culture we live in. We look forward to it each year.”

Taking part in the celebration with the traditional dances is one way our students grow deeper in their faith.

continued on page 2

MAY DAY CELEBRATION SHINES LIGHT ON HAWAIIAN CULTURE

continued from front cover

“A lot of kids don’t travel to the different islands, and this helps them understand what we have. With our eight major islands, many don’t get to see them. This gives them an outlook of life there and what people do. It teaches them a lot about the culture we live in. We look forward to it each year.”

— Mrs. Karen Takeshita

“In many ways, the dance relates to taking care of what God has given us, and how we take care and give back to the island,” Mrs. Takeshita says. “We do a lot of talking about what is good for the island, what we are blessed with.”

Meanwhile Lily Koa, or as she is better known, Kumu Koa, has been working with the middle school and high school students during 15-minute segments carved from the lunch periods for their May Day program set for Friday, May 4 at 8:30 a.m. in the Church Center.

While Hawaii’s many cultures will be celebrated in dance that day, the majority of the performances will be Hawaiian dances. “It’s quite amazing,” Kumu Koa says. “The entire royal court dances a hula. We try to get participants from each class.”

The lunchtime practices are necessary because not all the students have received formal hula training.

“The May Day is very important for the

students,” she says. “It gives them the exposure to different cultures.”

The songs performed during the celebration communicate Hawaiian history, giving the students an opportunity to learn more about our culture.

“All the songs have a story to tell,” Kumu Koa says. “It gives the students the opportunity to go to that time of our history. It’s a big undertaking. I do it all on my own, I spend my time so the students can have a history lesson through song. It builds confidence in the students. Many after graduation leave here and join Hawaiian clubs where they are going to school. They can take what they learn here and use it. My goal is for them to be able to use that and share our culture and history with others. Not everything others may read is correct [about our culture] and one has to be careful of the source. What our students learn here, they’re always welcome to share with others.”

Traditional dance honors our culture during the May Day celebration.



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

The Month of Mary: A Time for Celebration and Joy

Dear Parishioners,

In the Catholic Church, we designate a particular devotion for each month — and May is when we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. Thus, this is a good time for us to think about and concentrate on our devotion to the Mother of God. Perhaps we can add a few more Marian prayers to our daily routine. Praying the Rosary might be even more important. Of course, that assumes that daily prayer is part of our daily routine — which it should be.

Our Blessed Mother is important to our faith and to our Church. Her willingness to serve in a way that allowed the Lord to take human form really made our salvation a possibility. Because of her complete trust in God, she lived her life free from sin, and after her life, she was assumed into heaven by the power of God and crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

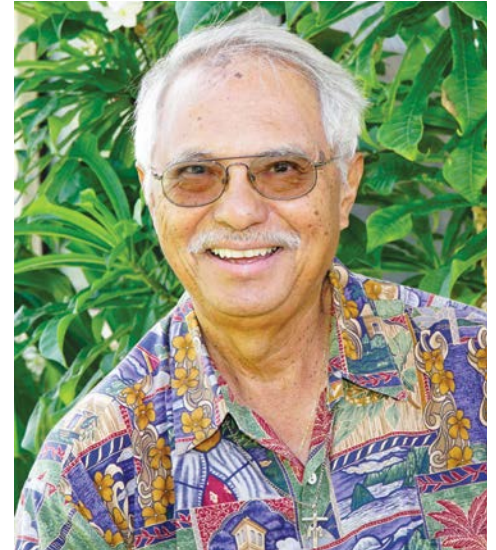
She is, of course, not divine. We worship only our Lord Jesus

Christ, but we honor Mary as a saint and in many other ways. We honor God when we remember the role of Mary in our salvation. Devotion to Mary always leads to Jesus Christ Himself.

Mary was joyous when she said “yes” to God. That is the kind of joy we need to seek — and we, too, must say “yes” to the Lord. Let us be grateful to Mary for bringing us her Son. This is why we crown her on our Catholic version of Mother’s Day. Through Mary, we are given an invitation into the Catholic fold. Her feminine presence and the safety of her motherhood may help us grow.

For most of us, this time of year is a month of growth in relation to nature. It is difficult not to have May as one of our favorite months for so many reasons. May is a beautiful time. We are called to make it even more beautiful, and we can do that as we serve and love one another.

I am deeply blessed to be your



pastor. I may say that often, but it is true. My priesthood has been a blessing, and serving you all has made that blessing even more significant. I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. God bless you and keep you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.



Welcome to the Family: RCIA AN



This year, our parish welcomed new members at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Each year, at one of our most beautiful Masses, St. Anthony Catholic Community welcomes new members into our Church family. Some of these people are baptized and embraced into the family of God for the first time, while others, having been baptized, become fully initiated into the Catholic Church, receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. The Easter Vigil is an incredible celebration, not only for those who are receiving sacraments, but for all of us, welcomed to share their joy.

“The Easter Vigil Mass is my favorite Mass, it’s the most beautiful Mass, I think, of the whole year,” says Chiree Souza, who serves as our Rite of

Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Coordinator. “Witnessing those who are receiving the sacraments, that is awesome.”

Chiree journeys with those who go through the RCIA process, meeting weekly to share with them about the beliefs and teachings of our Church and what it means to live as a Catholic.

“They come to us, most of them not knowing anything about the Catholic Church — they just felt the call,” Chiree says. “But as they go through classes, they learn more and more and become eager. When the time comes, at Easter Vigil when they receive the sacraments, you can see the excitement and joy in their eyes.”

AND THE INCREDIBLE CELEBRATION OF THE EASTER VIGIL

“In the beginning, I see confusion — they want to become a Catholic, but they’re confused about the faith,” she adds. “But when we come to the time of receiving the sacraments, you can see the confusion wiped away. They feel the joy, they feel the excitement, they feel they’ve been reborn and they’re ready to walk with Jesus and walk with others in faith.”

This year, we welcomed eight catechumens and 14 candidates. Pearl Akina, one of those who was welcomed into the Church this Easter, shares her thoughts on becoming Catholic.

“I wanted to become a Catholic because it is what I feel Jesus is calling me to do,” Pearl says. “I have been to many different denominations’ churches and nothing compares to the peace and the richness of the faith and tradition in the Catholic Church.

“I want my kids to grow up with a solid foundation of faith that comes from the Catholic Church,” she adds.

For those who are privileged to witness the growth and faith of those in RCIA, as well as the parishioners who attended the Easter Vigil, witnessing the faith of those entering the Church is often inspiring.

“They’re really into our faith,” Chiree says. “It brings joy to me and I feel new again in the faith. I get excited with them and for them. They bring that joy.

“It does make a difference to these parishioners in the pews to see that people are wanting to become like us, to walk with us,” she adds. “I think we need to witness this happening.”

Chiree hopes that the new members of our parish family will feel welcomed and supported by the rest of our parish.

“I hope that they feel the community, the feeling of community, joining our parish as a family,” Chiree says. “We all are one, we are one ohana, we go through ups and downs like any family, but we

“I hope that they feel the community, the feeling of community, joining our parish as a family. We all are one, we are one ohana, we go through ups and downs like any family, but we are all there to support each other.”

— Chiree Souza

are all there to support each other.”

She encourages parishioners to seek out our new members, congratulate them, and find ways to include them in our community.

“The first thing I would like the parishioners to do is pray — prayer is so powerful to support them,” Chiree says. “Give them encouragement, when you see them. Go up to them and say ‘hi!’ Encourage them and congratulate them and ask, ‘How can we help you in your faith?’”

As our newest members begin the next step in their journey of faith, as fully initiated Catholics, it is Chiree’s prayer that they will continue to grow closer to God.

“I hope that they’ll be able to live their life as Jesus did,” she says. “I always tell them, ‘Walk as Jesus walked.’ It warms my heart to see that, to see them living out their journey and their relationship with Jesus still growing.”

If you would like more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, please contact RCIA Coordinator Chiree Souza at 808-244-4148.

STEWARDSHIP

Becoming Fishers of Men

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He is asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the

workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual, personal, and meditation exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.



NEW MINISTRY HOPES TO SERVE FAMILIES OF ALL KINDS

It's been said that friends are the family that we choose. A new ministry at St. Anthony wants to be the kind of friend your family can turn to no matter what.

"The Family Life Ministry is a relatively new form of ministry and it encompasses a range of activities that are geared to family at all different stages of their lives," explains Coordinator Tanya Barbero. "We want to be able to strengthen the love within families, their relationship with God, and be of service to others in the community."

Together with her husband, Lee, and fellow coordinator, JoAnn Ridao, Tanya says the Family Life Ministry will play host to a number of faith-centered family activities, link individuals with social services they may qualify for, and nourish the emotional needs of parishioners of all ages and life stages. Accomplishing this mission can mean doing something simple like encouraging our youth to write cards for shut-in parishioners, setting up meals for families who have experienced a loss or have a new baby, or step in to guide families who may need assistance with rent or food but don't know where to start.

"St. Anthony Parish is growing in leaps and bounds,"



JoAnn says. "I find that people are more engaging at Mass and I think that has a lot to do with the new way that Mass is said and how we're encouraged to greet our neighbors. If you can make it a family environment, then it becomes more and more comfortable and meaningful."

"Divorced, widowed, single parents, special needs families, blended families — there is no one definition of what family is," Tanya says. "We want them to see they can strengthen their family bond and see that they can reach out beyond themselves to the

community. We see ourselves as a collaborative ministry that will be able to find out what the needs of families are and be able to bring to them what each family needs."

First up this month will be participation in the Maui Visitor Industry Charity Walk on May 12. Any money raised by parishioners who take part in the walk will become seed money for the Family Life Ministry. In July, parishioners will have the opportunity to join the ministry in hearing Chris Stefanick speak at St. Theresa and in September, Family Life

continued on back cover

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

1627 B Mill Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Church Office: (808) 244-4148
www.stanthonymaui.org

NEW MINISTRY HOPES TO SERVE FAMILIES OF ALL KINDS

continued from page 7

will host its second annual family retreat.

As the ministry gains steam, both Tanya and JoAnn say they're looking forward to seeing the many forms it can take as more parishioners join in.

"It's not something that we can do alone," Tanya says. "We're just the facilitators. We're just going to be the hub to get all these things going and the hope is we'll have families who will gather to carry out some of these things. It won't be a 'you come to us,' it'll be a 'you come together.'"

Most of all, JoAnn says she hopes parishioners

of all family situations will realize there is another kind of family ready to welcome them at St. Anthony.

"They have a family beyond their blood relatives that they can turn to in need," she says. "It's important as a church family to say, 'When we can, we should help.'"

If you would like more information, please email Familylife.stanthony@gmail.com.

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.