

# ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## REFLECTING ON THE ROLE OF MARY IN OUR LIVES: *The Feast of the Assumption*

Fr. Roland Bunda has a personal connection to the Feast of the Assumption, for 56 years ago on this feast day, he made his first vows as a Marianist religious.

“We count how long we have been in the Society of Mary since our first profession,” Fr. Roland says. “For me, this day marks my commitment to Mary and to the role of the Blessed Virgin in my life.”

In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared that the Assumption was a dogma of the Church, writing in *Munificentissimus Deus* that “the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” (44).

The Latin or Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church both celebrate this Marian feast in different ways, namely the Assumption in the Latin Church and the Dormition of the Mother of God in the Orthodox Church.

“I think it would be very helpful for us to look at this feast from both perspectives,” Fr. Roland says.



*The Eastern icon depicting the Dormition of Mary*

“In the Latin Rite, Mary was preserved from original sin with her Immaculate Conception, and when she died, she enjoyed the fruits of the resurrection and didn’t experience any corruption of the body.”

In the Eastern Rite, the Dormition or “falling asleep of Mary” is celebrated on the same day as the Assumption, Aug. 15. While the wording of Pope Pius XII leaves open the question of whether or not Mary physically died before her Assumption, the Eastern Rite holds that Mary, like Christ, had a human death.

The feast is also celebrated in a very majestic rite that is full of symbolism.

Fr. Roland points out that aesthetic depictions of Mary’s Assumption and Dormition highlight the differing interpretations of the feast. The Eastern icon focuses on Mary’s death and burial, and Western depictions frequently underscore her being gloriously assumed into heaven.

“In the Eastern icon for the Dormition, Christ in His resurrection is holding a baby, and the baby is

*continued on back cover*

## *Stewardship:* **LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST**

As professed disciples of Christ, we are also stewards of our personal and communal vocations. When we declare Christ as our King and Savior, we also promise to exist as His earthly body. The universal Church depends upon its individual earthly members for evangelization and support. As stewards of Catholicism, we must respond to this call with living faith and heartfelt stewardship. We must employ our lives in Christ's service, allowing Him to vocationally use us to our fullest potential. God designed us with specific talents in mind — by closely communicating with Jesus, His Son, we can put our talents to proper use. As stated in John's Gospel, when we give our lives to Christ, He promises to ignite them accordingly: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10).

True life demands sacrifices, which are crucial in urging us onward and upward toward Christ. When we embark upon a lifelong path of stewardship, giving our time, talent, and treasure in the service of God and His Church, we are effectively allowing Jesus to guide us along life's slippery slopes with the steady hand of a practiced master. Christ explains this concept in the ninth chapter of



Luke's Gospel: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Lk 9:23-24). Only after completely giving our lives over to Christ, will we experience the true majesty of life — the life each of us is destined to live.

As Catholics, we are urged to outwardly promote all stages of life, and to stand up in its defense. Considering the attention death has garnered within our society — whether we focus upon abortion, embryonic stem cell research, capital punishment or euthanasia — an understanding and respect for life must be rein-

stated into our culture and lives. But we must first harbor a true, personal love for life within our very souls, and live our own lives to the fullest, through Christ, in the service and promotion of His Church. We must become stewards of faith, in order to truly live as Christ planned. And we must give our time, talents, and treasure — all gifts God has given us through life — before we can really claim to be alive.

Let us promote the sanctity of life through personal conversion. Our deaths in Christ destine us to live in His glory, the ultimate expression of life. Let us become the disciples we claim to be, by adopting the essence of stewardship and melding it into our very souls.



## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

### *As Summer Winds Down, Fall Back into Stewardship*

Dear Parishioners,

August has traditionally been regarded as a summer month — a continuation of July with a few differences, namely back-to-school sales that arrive during the month. But now, many schools begin the academic year in August, with the ever-present back-to-school sales falling even earlier in July.

So do we regard August as “still summer” or “the beginning of fall”? While I don’t have an answer to that question, I do know that it’s a time when we should be thinking about how we’re going to serve as Christian disciples and stewards once the fall routines begin.

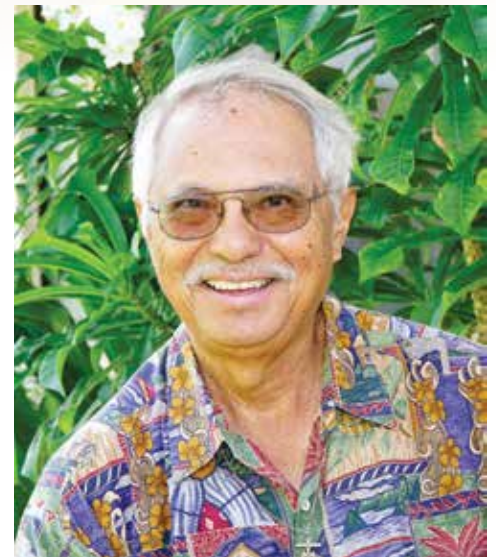
Even for adults long out of school, the concept of “summer vacation” has a strong hold on us. Sure, some take vacations in the fall to see the leaves, or in winter for skiing or to see family during the Christmas season — but we still think of the summer as *the* time for vacations. Many also have the preconceived notion that “nothing happens” in our parish over the summer. Yes, Mass is still regularly celebrated, and there are weddings and funerals. But otherwise, the

parish is a quieter place during the summer months... isn’t it?

Of course, that is certainly not the case. In parishes across America, there are summer programs like Vacation Bible School for the children, and youth groups are attending conferences and sharing in service projects in areas of need. In addition, both our staff and our volunteers are busy during the summer, as they prepare for all “normally scheduled” activities that resume after Labor Day.

That brings me to my main point — how are *you* preparing to serve as a steward once Labor Day is past? Have you thought of how you can best serve the Lord Jesus with the talent He has entrusted to you? Have you planned how you can arrange your schedule to offer Him more of your time in prayer, worship and study? Have you considered how your budget might be rearranged to share more of the treasure in your care?

Maybe our Lord is inviting you to teach religious education, or to work with the youth, or to visit shut-ins, or to



volunteer at a food bank, or to sing in the choir, or to attend weekday Mass, or... well, you get the idea. While we count down the days and wait for autumn to arrive, we can use our time to evaluate how we can be better disciples, better stewards and better Christians — this fall and throughout the rest of our lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Roland Bunda*  
Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

## EXCITEMENT IS IN THE AIR FOR NEW AC

As summer break comes to a close, there's an excitement in the air. It might be a new backpack or pair of shoes. Perhaps it's anticipation about meeting a new teacher, or maybe it's looking forward to being reunited with friends.

For the children at St. Anthony School, the start of the new year also brings an opportunity to grow academically and spiritually, as the school fulfills its mission to help students incorporate their faith into daily life. From the beginning of the day until the final bell rings, they are encouraged to go deeper in both their knowledge and faith.

"2018-19 is an exciting year for St. Anthony School!" says Mr. Tim Cullen, our Head of School.

St. Anthony School is growing, adding additional kindergarten and first-grade classrooms, as well as teachers to serve them. Due to increased enrollment, we have moved our fourth and fifth-grade classrooms to the Flex Center (former library), allowing those students increased access to digital media, robotics and music programs. Sr. Sara Sanders will also be teaching a class at the high school this fall.

"We are also thankful to have Sr. Sara Sanders teaching," Mr. Cullen says. "Her expertise in science and her faithful and loving example of service to God will be a blessing to our students and staff."

This year, we have updated phone lines, data lines and "hot spots" for our K-12 campus to increase school safety and Internet capacity. We plan to increase the access to and integration of technology across our programs, as well.

Developing the faith of our students in the coming year is also a high priority, with the addition of K-12 prayer services, along with our monthly K-12 school Masses.

St. Anthony School is also establishing an Advancement Office, with plans to work closely with the new Foundation Board in securing necessary resources. In addition, our staff and School Board will collaborate to develop a long-range "Build the Future" plan to support all school programs and facilities.

"We hope that each child and each staff member is immersed in the spirit and opportunity of our school programs," Mr. Cullen says.



*Essay winners — St. Anthony School took top three places for Post 3850 Maui Patriots Pen Contest, as well as the top three places for Voices of Democracy contest. Luke Jones was selected as the overall winner for the state of Hawaii to compete in national contest in Washington, D.C. — he was awarded \$1,000 prize for his efforts.*



*Outstanding student honorees from the sixth, seventh and eighth-grade classes.*



# ACADEMIC YEAR AT ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL

“We continue our theme of ‘Respect the Past, Celebrate the Present and Build the Future,’” he adds. “We also are promoting the theme of the ‘Five Es of Excellence’ which include Expectation, Engagement, Empowerment, Evaluation and Evangelization.”

As he begins his second year serving as Head of School, Mr. Cullen reflects on the unique value of Catholic education, particular at St. Anthony School.

“A Catholic school is unique when it puts its faith mission at the top of the list of priorities,” he says. “The faith, love, commitment and respect that this school and community has for the importance of our relationship with God is overwhelming. The school spirit flows throughout each person, up from the ground and through the winds that blow each day. It is an absolutely special place to be and to experience God’s love and the grace of the Holy Spirit.”

Mr. Cullen speaks with gratitude for the many parishioners who have been involved in supporting St. Anthony School over the years.

“We pray for them each day, and feel and appreciate their generosity, love and hope in return,” he says.

Mr. Cullen offers encouragement to families who may be considering sending their children to St. Anthony School.

“If you want your child, your most precious resource and legacy, to be in a school setting that cares about their heart, mind, body and soul, then St. Anthony School is the only place for you,” Mr. Cullen says. “We are not perfect, but we do believe that each person matters and that our school provides the best opportunity for someone to grow, flourish and become an adult that will impact the world, before and after graduation.”

*If you would like more information on St. Anthony School, please visit [www.sasmaui.org](http://www.sasmaui.org).*



*St. Anthony School students celebrate May Day.*



*Fr. Roland Bunda, Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, and Mr. Tim Cullen, Head of School for the newly consolidated K-12 St. Anthony School system, after a Sunday Mass.*



## Family Retreat Seeks to Nurture C

St. Anthony families large and small, young and old — mark your calendars! This year's Family Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15. Anyone who participated in the inaugural retreat last year knows what a wonderful experience this event offers to our parish families, and this year's retreat is sure to do the same!

The idea for our first Family Retreat came in 2016, when lay Marianists Martha Haleakala, Kathy Shimada and Joy Ollero traveled to Oahu to observe a retreat that was being led by the Marianist community at Chaminade University for the families of men and women who were returning home from prison.

Martha, Kathy and Joy were so impressed with what they saw that they approached Fr. Roland about bringing a similar retreat here to our very own parish families. The women received his blessing for the project, and their first Family Retreat was such a success that plans were immediately made for a second one! This year, the retreat continues to be sponsored by our Marianist community, although St. Anthony's new Family Life Ministry is now coordinating the project.

Like last year's retreat, Sept. 15 promises to be a fun and faith-filled day, with music, prayer workshops, food and



*Families at the 2017 Family Retreat.*

fellowship. Last year, the retreat was divided into four parts, focusing on affirmation, reconciliation, communication and commitment within the family. Puppet shows on each topic kept both young and old entertained, and they were followed by breakout sessions for discussion. At the end of the day, each family presented a poster they had worked on throughout the day, highlighting commitments they decided to make together as a family.

For Martha, witnessing the spiritual benefits the retreat brought to participating families was greatly rewarding.

"Faith is key to family life, and it's really important to get back to the basics," she says. "Just watching everything that was going on that day, we

(organizers) knew that something special was happening, and we just felt so great about being a part of it. When the families presented their commitments after the dinner, most of them said they saw how important it was to pray together as a family and to eat together as family, even though everyone has a crazy schedule. So, I think they were spiritually enriched."

As families become more committed to make the Catholic faith a central part of their home life, they will often become more active in parish life, as well.

"We're saying to these families, don't just come for Mass or drop your kids off at CCD," Martha says. "We're all the Church, and we're all *ohana*. Stay with us, because we're going to be here for you."

## Community Life at St. Anthony



*Families create posters during the 2017 Family Retreat.*

Tanya Barbero — who now coordinates the new Family Life Ministry with her husband, Lee, and JoAnn Ridao — is excited that the Family Life Ministry, with the help of the Marianists, is heading up the Family Retreat this year.

Like Martha, Tanya believes that strengthening our families' commitment to one another and to the faith is essential to the life of a parish.

"The families are the core of our parish community, and when you have strong families,

you have a strong community," she says. "That's really what the Church is about — being a family. So, by enriching it in the most fundamental form, we can do so much more for ourselves in our smaller families, our extended families, and then our faith family."

As a parent herself, Tanya understands that days devoted solely to quality time spent as a family are now more important than ever.

"We need to know how to connect," she says. "As a society,

we've lost the tools to connect — I can sometimes talk better with my kids by text than I can in person. This retreat gives us a time to turn off the electronics and not just interact virtually — this is real time. We need to give our families an opportunity to see what families can be like by carving out a moment in time to just be a family together."

By recognizing the gifts of each family member, a family is strengthened. And any time even one family unit becomes stronger, the whole of God's Church benefits.

"I hope that families that come to the retreat will recognize the unique beauty and gift that they are as a family, and then be willing to share that with the rest of the community," Tanya says. "To put it in an analogy, it's like recognizing that each of them is a candle in a candelabra, and when one is lit up, it benefits everyone. One family can make an impact on the whole world, and it's not on our merit, because God chose us, and He chooses our family."

*Are you interested in participating in this year's Family Retreat? Don't miss out on this opportunity to come together as a family to grow in faith! Parishioners may sign up after Mass, call the parish office, or register for the retreat through the Eventbrite posted on our parish website at [www.stanthonymaui.org/index.html](http://www.stanthonymaui.org/index.html).*



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1627 B Mill Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

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



## *The Feast of the Assumption* continued from front cover

the Blessed Mother,” Fr. Roland says. “Then, look at Titian’s image of Mary going up to heaven and the angels accompanying her. We in the Latin Rite are going to be following Mary, the first model.”

Fr. Roland emphasizes that all graces come from Christ through Mary, and he believes it is significant that the feast of “Mary, Mother of the Church” that Pope Francis recently established will be celebrated the Monday immediately following Pentecost.

“The day of Pentecost might be considered the birthing of the Church, and here is the pope proclaiming Mary is the Mother of the Church, the first fruits,” Fr. Roland says. “For me, as a Marianist, I ask how I might bring others to Jesus through Mary.”

Though in Hawaii the Assumption is not a Holy Day of Obligation, parishioners are welcome to join in the liturgical celebration of the Mass on Aug. 15, which will be a Wednesday this year.

Faith community members might also celebrate the feast as a family, considering how the whole

family can become closer to Jesus through Mary. One opportunity to do this would be by attending St. Anthony’s Family Retreat on Sept. 15.

“In your homes, you might rededicate your families to Mary and place them under the patronage and protection of Our Blessed Mother,” Fr. Roland says.

Since 1976, St. Anthony’s has been a Marianist parish, and the Assumption offers all of us an opportunity to deepen our relationships with our Blessed Mother.

“Consider the role of Mary in our lives,” Fr. Roland says. “Mary helps us to be open to God’s bidding and direction so that Christ can be born in our lives and families throughout the world.”

*For more information about the Feast of the Assumption, please reach out to Fr. Roland Bunda through the parish office at 808-244-4148.*

### 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.