

2015
Diocesan
Stewardship
Report



Anna and Roger Acebo with children Jessica and Evan, parishioners of St. Joseph, Waipahu.

The Catholic Church in Hawaii

Who We Are

220,000
Catholics Statewide

66
Parishes

27
Mission churches

22
Catholic schools with preschools

23
Catholic schools with elementary grades

7
Catholic high schools

1
Catholic university

8,923
Students in Catholic schools

6,793
Students in religious education

128
Priests, active and retired

10
Seminarians

71
Permanent deacons

14
Permanent deacon candidates

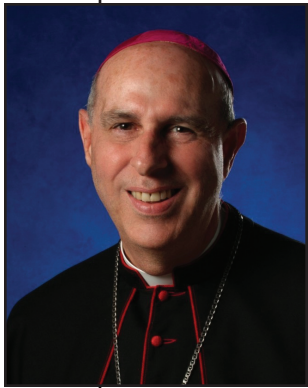
27
Religious orders serving in Hawaii

18,225
Hawaii Catholic Herald subscribers

50,000
People served per year by diocesan social services

BISHOP LARRY SILVA

2015 Annual Stewardship Report: Message to Parishes



Aloha, and blessings in this new year, this Jubilee Year of Mercy!

This special issue of the Hawaii Catholic Herald carries the annual diocesan stewardship report. It is also posted on the diocesan website (catholichawaii.org) and the Herald's websites (hawaiicatholicherald.com and digital.hawaiicatholicherald.com).

As you will see, this report not only presents numbers, but tells the stories of the many ways that people throughout our diocese are offering their time, talent and treasure for the service of the Lord and his beloved people. We are most grateful to all of you for being good stewards of the Gospel, and we pray that our report will inspire many others to offer themselves to the Lord's service.

For most of you, your parish is the focus of your good stewardship, and the diocese is often thought of as a far-away entity that takes a portion of the hard earned money you have generously given to the parish. I hope this year's report will help you understand that YOU are the diocese, and that all 66 parishes are in a sacred communion with one another, just as the diocese is in a sacred communion with other dioceses to form one Body of Christ throughout the world.

Your support of the diocese, whether directly through the With Grateful Hearts Campaign or the Bishop's Circle, or indirectly through the parish assessment, is your participation in the mission of the wider Church, a Church that is able to serve people in a way that no individual parish would be able to do so by itself. So I thank you for supporting your diocese with your time, talent and treasure. I pray that you will continue to be blessed and dedicated as good stewards of the Gospel, giving ever more faithful and creative witness to Jesus wherever you go!

+ Larry Silva



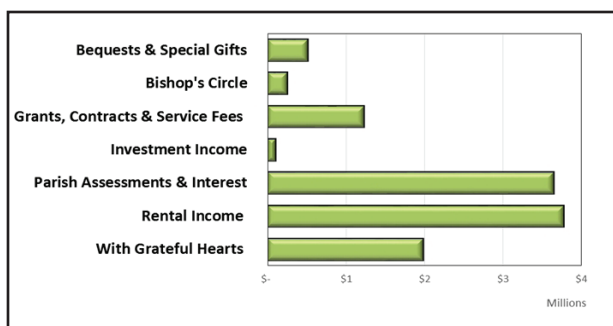
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

(The diocese was audited by CW Associates and was issued an unqualified (clean) opinion for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015)

Sources of Funds

Where the funds come from to support the pastoral administration of the church (2014-2015 Fiscal Year):

Category	Amount
Bequests & Special Gifts	\$516,101
Bishop's Circle	\$253,294
Grants, Contracts & Service Fees	\$1,235,087
Investment Income	\$ 102,043
Parish Assessments & Interest.....	\$3,655,532
Rental Income	\$3,777,437
With Grateful Hearts	\$1,988,079
Total	\$11,527,573



Bequests & Special Gifts: Designated donations from individuals and organizations to support the work of the Diocese of Honolulu.

Bishop's Circle: Annual appeal to support diocesan operations that serve the parishes and schools.

Grants, Contracts & Service Fees: Includes revenues for fees charged for schools, religious education, clergy workshops and the Hawaii Catholic Herald.

Investment Income: Earnings on diocesan investment accounts.
Interest, dividends and realized gains: \$603,483
Unrealized gains (losses) from holding investments: (\$501,440)

Parish Assessments & Interest: Assessment represents approximately 10% of total parish revenues for support of diocesan operations. Interest received on loans to a diocesan school.

Rental Income: Earnings on diocese-owned property held for investment and income purposes.

With Grateful Hearts: Funding generated by the diocesan capital campaign for specific initiatives.

GLOBAL AND NATIONAL CONCERNS

Second collections

We continue to support global and national concerns and collected the following for the year ending June 30, 2015:

Latin America	\$35,808
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$38,308
Catholic Relief Services	\$90,142
Holy Land	\$87,557
Catholic Communications	\$66,054
Holy Father (Peter's Pence)	\$82,340
Catholic University	\$56,190
Campaign for Human Development	\$71,150
Rice Bowl	\$114,615
Propagation of the Faith	\$68,332
National Religious Order Retirement	\$100,989
Total	\$811,485



Priesthood ordination of Father Nicholas Brown.

Workshop for Catholic school principals and pastors.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TEAM

New pastor, old challenge

By Lisa Sakamoto

Does the following scenario sound familiar? Your parish is bursting at the seams and needs to expand. But your long-standing pastor, who had been leading the effort planning for future growth, is given a new assignment. Your new pastor doesn't have a clue as to what needs to be done.

What does your parish do? It could follow the example of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Ewa Beach.

The new pastor there was Father Ed Barut. Before going to Ewa Beach, Father Ed, who is from the Philippines, was the parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Punahou.

When he arrived at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 2013, the parish had a \$2.5 million loan that was due in 2016. The loan had been used to buy property behind the parish for its expansion.

How did Father Ed proceed? First, he listened to his parishioners. Then he pulled together a very capable planning and building committee and a finance council and leaned on his lay leadership to help him. Finally, he called upon the diocesan Administrative Services Team for advice in master planning, contract negotiations, real estate, financing and stewardship.

He included in the planning the principal of the parish school and the Hawaii Catholic Schools superintendent. He communicated with his parishioners, seeking their input along the way. He brought all the parts together and most importantly, he trusted God and allowed everyone to work as one Body of Christ.

Fast forward to today. Father Ed has an approved master plan for the parish expansion and is ready to launch a capital campaign to raise more than \$3 million.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help's journey is only beginning but, it is safe to say, it is definitely on the right path in bringing the expansion to life.

Lisa Sakamoto is the Diocesan Finance Officer.

OFFICE OF PASTORAL PLANNING

I'd rather be planning

By Jim Walsh

Parish pastoral planning isn't the most gripping of topics. Parishioners either take planning for granted, or think it's the pastor's job, or consider it unnecessary. Often, the prevailing attitude is "We know where we're going and what we need to do. Why plan?"

So for me it's a challenge, because it is my job to help parishes plan for the future. But it's also gratifying. When a parish takes the time and effort to produce a good plan they discover unresolved issues and unrepresented parishioners. Reaching out and really listening to parishioners encourages a sense of belonging. More participation means a more successful plan.

Comments by leaders of various parish pastoral councils tell me we are on the right track.

One called the planning process "eye-opening to everyone." They discovered "important issues" and "new priorities." They heard from parishioners who felt their voices were not welcomed in the past.

Another agreed. Listening to parishioners, staff and clergy through workshops and surveys was "key" to their effort.

One chairman said their plan's success was due to "countless hours collecting data."

"We needed to hear from all aspects of the church in order to address needs, concerns and set priorities," another said.

Another told me that as a result of their planning, the parish was able to pin down three priorities: "evangelization, support of marriage and family, and stewardship."

Planning takes time and effort. But the direction it provides and the participation it engenders helps every parish accomplish its mission.

One of the best things about my job is accompanying Bishop Larry Silva on his parish visits. I have learned first-hand the uniqueness of each church community and the interesting challenges they face. My outlook is no longer parochial (excuse the pun), but is enriched by the diversity and vibrancy of our island church.

Jim Walsh is the director of the Office of Pastoral Planning.

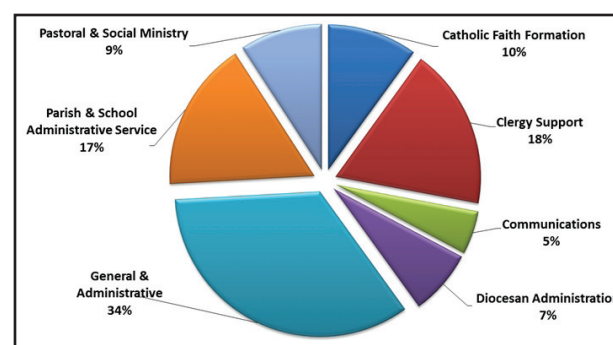


DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

Use of Our Funds

How your support makes a difference in the Pastoral Administration of the Church by the Diocese of Honolulu (2014-2015 Fiscal Year):

Category	Amount
Catholic Faith Formation	\$1,182,716
Clergy Support	\$2,122,583
Communications	\$569,862
Diocesan Administration	\$860,503
General & Administrative	\$3,975,695
Parish & School Administrative Service	\$1,973,668
Pastoral & Social Ministry	\$1,088,987
Total	\$11,774,014



Catholic Faith Formation: Hawaii Catholic Schools, Religious Education, Youth and Young Adults and support of the Diocesan Junior Senior High School.

Clergy Support: Clergy retirement fund, seminarian formation, deacon formation, annual priest convocation, continuing education and special medical care for clergy.

Communications: Diocesan support of the publication and distribution of the Hawaii Catholic Herald.

Diocesan Administration: The Office of the Bishop, the Vicar General, the Chancellor, the Office of Worship, and the Tribunal Office including membership assessment from the Holy See and organizations such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

General and Administrative: The office of diocesan services, the costs of operating the chancery and St. Stephen Diocesan Center, the cost of managing the investment portfolio (including real property taxes), insurance, professional fees, and portions of the offices of finance, facilities management and human resources.

Parish and School Administrative Service: The Office of Pastoral Planning, the Office of Stewardship and Development, the Office of Safe Environment, and portions of the offices of facilities management, finance and human resources.

Pastoral and Social Ministry: The Office of Social Ministry, hospital ministry, prison ministry, respect life, and support of Catholic Charities Hawaii, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc., and Hawaii Catholic Conference.

DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL

- Robert S. Harrison** Chairperson
- James Severson** Vice-chair
- Todd Taniguchi**..... Secretary
- Janessa Bonifacio, CPA**..... Member
- Rev. Francisco de los Reyes, SSS** Member
- Paul deVille** Member
- Diane Murakami** Member
- Arnold Martines**..... Member
- Vecy Pascual**..... Member
- Most Rev. Larry Silva** Ex-officio
- Very Rev. Gary Secor** Ex-officio
- Lisa Sakamoto**..... Ex-officio
- Marlene DeCosta** Ex-officio
- Robert Bruce Graham Jr., Esq.** Of counsel



Hawaii deacons.
Renovation work on the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace.



OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reach out to reach within

By Kristina M. DeNeve

At some point in our lives, we realize that we must decide for ourselves whether or not we want to grow in our faith as Catholic Christians. The Office of Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization supports individuals, parishes and vicariates to be intentional and attentive to this never-ending task of responding as God draws us closer to himself, to others and to our truest self.

- Like the young man on Hawaii island who agreed to help with his RCIA team and later became the coordinator. He loved sharing our faith so much that now he's discerning a vocation to the diaconate.
- Like the parish staffer in Leeward Oahu who uses the occasion of parents bringing their children in for First Communion preparation to evangelize and welcome and connect the whole family to the parish.
- Like the Bible study group in East Honolulu that was feeling stagnant. It was renewed and invigorated by using a different program that focused more on faith sharing.
- Like the volunteer on Kauai who attended a diocesan adult faith formation meeting that included a 30-minute prayer service. She adapted the practice for her parish pastoral council and now sees other parish committees praying more deeply at the start of meetings.
- Like the man on the island of Hawaii who had a family member who wanted to become Catholic. He started RCIA for the first time at his small parish.
- Like the woman on Maui who felt disconnected from her own parish. She found several kindred spirits as she participated in the annual Maui Faith Formation Conference.

We grow as Jesus' disciples and stewards only as we mature in our faith. That is the task, mission and goal of adult faith formation and evangelization.

Kristina M. DeNeve is the Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization coordinator.

LAND ASSET MANAGEMENT OFFICE

We have made great strides

By Marlene De Costa

When I was hired as diocesan real estate director in 2009, one of my highest priorities was to find appropriately-sized properties in West Oahu for parishes bursting at the seams. It was a tall order, with many unknowns.

Using Grateful Hearts dollars, the diocese commissioned a demographic study to determine likely congregation sizes in 2020 and out to 2035. We shared the data with leeward Oahu parishes, whose dedicated pastors and lay leaders began planning for themselves.

Some five years later we have made great strides. Following different strategies, real estate decisions were made for five of the seven parishes.

St. Rita, Nanakuli, purchased a house for a rectory, leaving the parish enough space to build an expanded church, hall, classrooms and office. Still in the planning stage, the parish is hoping a long-term ground lease extension will bring their dreams to fruition.

In 2014, I helped St. Jude, Kapolei, find a new home. The 11-acre parcel is centrally located across from Kapolei Regional Park. It's large enough for a 1,200-seat worship space, hall, catechism classrooms, office and rectory, with additional space should the parish see an elementary school in its future.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ewa Beach, also developed a master plan which expands their worship space from 300 to 750 seats. The current church will become a parish hall and offices. A nearby house was purchased as a rectory, allowing more space for the parish plan. A nearby property investment will help provide needed financial resources.

Immaculate Conception, Ewa, has completed a feasibility study and is now in search of a permanent new home. The journey continues.

Each parish is moving along and, in my mind, the Holy Spirit is right along with them.

Marlene De Costa is the diocesan Real Estate Director.



Stewardship and Development Director's report

By Mark Clark

The With Grateful Hearts (WGH) capital campaign has received \$35.2 million in contributions from December 2008 through December 31, 2015. More than \$16.8 million has gone to help fund diocesan-wide ministries and special endowments, and over \$13.6 million has been returned to parishes. The balance of funds received is allocated for future campaign elements and paid campaign expenses.

The Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF) oversees all WGH Funds and is pleased to report that the accounting firm of CW Associates has issued an unqualified (clean) opinion audit for the year ending December 31, 2014. Mahalo to all our generous and faithful donors! For more information visit: www.catholicahawaii.org.

With Grateful Hearts Diocesan Initiatives

Total Disbursed as of Dec. 31, 2015 \$16,828,350

CLERGY RETIREMENT

Total Allocated \$2,602,821

Funds deposited directly to First Hawaiian Bank for the diocesan priest retirement plan

VOCATION ENDOWMENT

Total Allocated \$2,602,821

Support for the education and training of our seminarians

TUITION ASSISTANCE ENDOWMENT

Total Allocated \$1,735,214

Funds released directly to the Augustine Educational Foundation for grants to Catholic school families

SOCIAL SERVICES

Total Allocated \$2,098,521

Funding for Office of Social Ministry, Hope Services Hawaii and Catholic Charities to provide homeless housing and services

FAITH FORMATION

Total Allocated \$1,316,267

Funding for Deacon Formation, Parish Faith Formation Leaders, Maui Catholic Radio, and Year of Consecrated Life events

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Total Allocated \$1,573,707

Funding for the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office, Diocesan/Vicariate Youth Days and Special Programs

CATHEDRAL BASILICA RESTORATION

Total Allocated \$1,301,411

Funding to help restore the 172-year-old "mother church" of the Hawaiian Islands

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Total Allocated \$1,467,848

Training for Clergy, Staff, Lay Leaders, Catholic Schools and Stewardship to better provide transparency and accountability

LAND ASSET MANAGEMENT & PARISH FACILITIES

Total Allocated \$2,129,740

Funding for the diocesan Real Estate Office, Land Acquisition and Consultant Studies

HCCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Nishigaya President
Sr. William Marie Eleniki, OSF Vice President
John Brogan Secretary
Mark Pillori Treasurer
Louis Carnazzo Director
Calvert Chipchase Director
Vincent Guerreiro Director



Young Catholic youth rally.



Young adult group cleans Catholic cemetery.



Seminarian EJ Resinto.

OFFICE FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Creating an opportunity

By Makana Aiona

This past summer, I had my first summer intern. Gabriella had just returned from her first year at Georgetown University and was looking for an opportunity to experience "working for the church" to help her further discern government and theology as her field of study.

Reviewing her resume, I quickly realized that it would be a mistake not to utilize her time and talent. Gabriella was valedictorian for her high school, held a 3.5 GPA at Georgetown University, served on many boards at school and at her parish, made time to share her singing and acting talents at each, and she even volunteered at Aloha Pregnancy Center!

Nonetheless, what I found most impressive was that this young woman was looking to answer the biggest of life's questions, "Who did God make me to be?"

We did a lot in two months. We created a young adult website, a monthly newsletter for young adults and a young adult mobile app. We priced national conferences for young adults, and updated our contact lists. But the greatest thing we did was create a new opportunity.

The goals of our office are to provide parish support, leadership training and experiences of the larger church community. Ultimately, we seek to draw the youth and young adults of our diocese, and those called to serve them, into more responsible participation in the life and mission of the church.

On top of meeting all our goals, this internship created a new opportunity for young adults to work with us in problem-solving ways to support all parishes in the diocese based solely on the stewardship of volunteers.

Thank you, Gabriella, for creating this opportunity and providing me with another great example of the crucial role volunteers play in our ministry to the Diocese of Honolulu.

Makana Aiona is the young adult ministry coordinator.

OFFICE FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Leadership in youth ministry

By Lisa Gomes

"The ministry of leadership development calls forth, affirms and empowers the diverse gifts, talents and abilities of adults and young people in our faith communities for comprehensive ministry with adolescents. Leadership roles in adolescent ministry are key. Leaders must be trained and encouraged."

Following this advice from the U.S. bishop's document "Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry," the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry offers a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies program.

Through this program, offered in conjunction with the Washington State-based Center for Ministry Development, participants are given the knowledge, skills, practical tools and techniques needed for creative and comprehensive ministry with youth.

One of our participants was Sister Meristella Um-dor, a member of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians who works at St. Elizabeth Parish in Aiea.

Completing the courses this summer, Sister Meristella feels she is much more confident and competent in her position as the parish coordinator of religious education. She has also transformed the middle school grades into a youth ministry model of catechesis where the students are given opportunities to encounter Christ, engage in parish life and live as disciples.

She has implemented a curriculum that is catechetical, yet fun and relevant to middle schoolers, and has formed a core team of young adults and adults to guide the young people.

The certificate program has given Sister Meristella more credibility in her leadership role. She has become more effective in her leadership skills, especially in communication and facilitating meetings with volunteers and parents.

"Overall, my participation in the Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies program has provided me useful tools to be able to empower others and lead them closer to the Lord," Sister Meristella said.

Leadership makes youth ministry happen.

Lisa Gomes is the director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

In procession with the Book of the Gospels.

Bishop Larry Silva celebrates Mass.

Tongan Catholic Choir.



Parish Disbursements

PARISH SHARE*

Total Disbursed as of Dec. 31, 2015 \$13,635,956

*Funds rebated to each individual parish

PARISH RESULTS

PARISH	% of Goal	Collected	Parish Share
Vietnamese Catholic Community	358%	\$358,275	\$216,620
St. Damien, Molokai	289%	\$361,745	\$201,896
Blessed Sacrament, Honolulu	242%	\$327,287	\$167,329
St. Stephen, Nuuanu	213%	\$286,937	\$135,050
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa	189%	\$831,203	\$356,962
St. Anthony, Kalihi	180%	\$405,497	\$166,898
Sacred Heart, Hawi	180%	\$332,276	\$136,320
Annunciation, Kamuela	168%	\$680,237	\$260,689
St. Joseph, Waipahu	153%	\$1,150,403	\$395,322
St. Benedict, Honaunau	152%	\$266,157	\$90,425
Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa	149%	\$568,089	\$189,044
Immaculate Conception, Ewa	148%	\$258,920	\$85,710
St. Anthony, Papaaloa	145%	\$65,253	\$21,377
St. John Vianney, Kailua	144%	\$1,021,436	\$333,218
St. Philomena, Honolulu	143%	\$536,058	\$174,279
St. Anthony, Wailuku	142%	\$879,957	\$284,979
Resurrection of the Lord, Waipio	139%	\$479,578	\$153,539
Holy Cross, Kalaheo	139%	\$402,027	\$128,514
St. Theresa, Mt. View	137%	\$198,668	\$63,084
St. Roch, Kahuku	133%	\$133,490	\$41,745
St. Joseph, Hilo	131%	\$797,869	\$246,434
Malia Puka O Kalani, Keaukaha	124%	\$62,200	\$18,600
St. Catherine, Kapaa	124%	\$650,478	\$193,989
Holy Trinity, Honolulu	122%	\$887,888	\$262,694
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Waikane	121%	\$145,495	\$42,747
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ewa	120%	\$716,312	\$209,406
St. Michael, Waialua	120%	\$364,718	\$106,109
Holy Family, Honolulu	119%	\$202,122	\$58,561
St. Patrick, Kaimuki	118%	\$565,350	\$162,675
St. Joseph, Makawao	118%	\$406,191	\$116,846
Immac Heart of Mary, Papaikou	115%	\$254,074	\$72,037
St. John Apos & Evan, Mililani	114%	\$1,190,398	\$333,949
Sacred Hearts, Lanai	114%	\$164,961	\$46,230
Immaculate Conception, Lihue	111%	\$317,016	\$87,258
St. Rita, Nanakuli	111%	\$332,590	\$91,295
St. Ann, Waihee	111%	\$94,137	\$25,818
St. John the Baptist, Kalihi	108%	\$280,596	\$75,298
Christ the King, Kahului	107%	\$622,433	\$166,217
St. Theresa, Kekaha	104%	\$239,511	\$62,256
Sacred Heart, Naalehu	102%	\$61,019	\$15,509
Sacred Heart, Waianae	101%	\$299,253	\$75,877
Korean Catholic Community	101%	\$319,510	\$81,005
Star of the Sea, Honolulu	101%	\$947,845	\$238,922
St. Raphael Church, Koloa	101%	\$221,325	\$55,663
St. George, Waimanalo	100%	\$348,933	\$87,233
St. Anthony of Padua, Kailua**	100%	\$1,796,217	\$1,221,216
St. Michael the Archangel, Kona**	100%	\$1,646,674	\$1,133,424
Sacred Heart, Punahou**	100%	\$1,252,812	\$836,737
Our Lady of Good Counsel, P City**	99%	\$2,094,484	\$1,368,446
St. Ann, Kaneohe**	98%	\$1,943,616	\$1,197,367
Newman Center/Holy Spirit	98%	\$319,255	\$79,814
Our Lady of Lourdes, Honokaa	98%	\$166,389	\$41,597
St. Pius X, Manoa	95%	\$170,365	\$42,591
St. Jude, Makakilo	94%	\$825,795	\$206,449
Our Lady of the Mount, Kalihi	91%	\$168,588	\$42,147
Holy Rosary, Paia	90%	\$71,950	\$17,987
St. Rita, Haiku	81%	\$85,267	\$21,317
Our Lady Queen of Angels, Kula	80%	\$116,611	\$29,153
Cathedral Basilica Our Lady of Peace	77%	\$629,196	\$157,299
Holy Rosary, Pahala	74%	\$47,815	\$11,954
Maria Lanakila, Lahaina	72%	\$475,532	\$118,883
St. Elizabeth, Aiea	72%	\$698,808	\$174,702
St. Theresa, Kihei	70%	\$567,508	\$141,877
Sts. Peter & Paul, Honolulu	68%	\$539,058	\$134,764
St. Mary, Hana	66%	\$49,730	\$12,433
St. Augustine, Waikiki	60%	\$380,749	\$95,187
Sacred Heart, Pahoa	41%	\$59,933	\$14,983

*Based on cash received as of September 30, 2015

**Parishes with combined campaigns, thus parish share is based on corresponding campaign policies.

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Why I do what I do

By Kristin Leandro

A few months ago, I was scheduled to speak at a conference at St. Joseph School in Hilo. As my sister drove me to the airport, she told me of a talk she heard that day at work by a registered nurse who told the heartbreaking story of a 4-year-old girl beaten so badly by her parents on her birthday that she was in the hospital, dying alone.

As he stood at her bedside, the nurse was so saddened that he began to sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," the song he sang to his infant son at bedtime. The little girl's room soon filled with roughly 25 of his colleagues, singing along as the little girl slipped home to our Lord. My sister said that even her normally stoic male coworkers were sobbing as they listened to the story.

At the airport, distracted by a 90-minute delay, it wasn't until I boarded and sat in the darkened cabin that the little girl's story began to suddenly haunt me. What was she like? What color was her hair, her eyes? What could a 4-year-old possibly do to make someone so angry? On her birthday? The tears began to flow uncontrollably. Everything about the story made me so very, very sad.

Then I heard a voice. It was God, as clear as a bell, telling me in no uncertain terms: "And this is why I brought you here. This is why you do what you do."

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven." In the spirit of these words, and in memory of that precious little angel, I tell myself every morning, "This is why I do what I do."

Kristin Leandro is the director of the Office of Safe Environment.

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

New leaves on an old tree

By Modesto Cordero

Blessed Paul VI said about liturgy that "it is like a strong tree whose beauty is derived from the continuous renewal of its leaves, but whose strength comes from the old trunk, with solid roots in the ground."

In the eyes of the faithful, the Sunday liturgical celebrations may at times seem to be always the same, with little difference from one Mass to the other. But from the eyes of a liturgist, a Mass could easily be seen as a big theatrical production.

As the director of the Office of Worship and a liturgist, I can get caught in the details that makes a Mass flow nicely, without flaws or distractions: are the vestments clean and pressed; is the environment free from clutter; do the microphones work; did the ministers arrive early enough; does the music match the readings; do we have enough altar servers.

If I don't give attention to these and other details, I feel like I am not providing the faithful with a meaningful spiritual experience.

I have heard many comments from people who left the Catholic Church and, after experiencing other Christian services, return because they miss "the strength (that) comes from the old trunk."

During a recent diocesan celebration, a friend commented on how seamless the Mass was. He said he felt the Spirit of God present in the entire celebration. The music was beautiful, the altar servers acted with the reverence of angels, the Word was proclaimed loudly and clearly, the homilist's words were moving and the entire ohana had the opportunity to share the body and blood of Christ.

Comments and experiences like these bring happiness and deep fulfillment to me, especially when, at times, it seems like I am only doing my job.

Modesto Cordero is the director of the Office of Worship.

DIOCESAN PRIESTS

Retirement Pension and Postretirement Health Plans

Caring for our retired priests who have served our church is our responsibility. Contributions to the clergy retirement pension plan and postretirement health plan come from the parish in the amount of \$5,400 per year per priest and from the generous support of donors. From 2009 – 2015, the With Grateful Hearts Capital Campaign contributed approximately \$2.6 million to the clergy retirement pension plan. The pension plan is currently administered by First Hawaiian Bank. The actuarial computations for both the Clergy Retirement Pension Plan and Clergy Postretirement Health Plan were prepared by Aon Hewitt, a retirement and investment company. Summary of Benefit Obligations and Funded Status as of June 30, 2015 for the Clergy Retirement Pension Plan:

Change in Projected Benefit Obligation

Projected Benefit Obligation Beginning of the Year	\$ 8,241,811
Service Cost	166,895
Interest Cost	332,937
Actuarial (Gain) or Loss	634,598
Disbursement Paid	(427,847)
Projected Benefit Obligation End of Year	\$ 8,948,394

Change in Plan Assets

Fair Value of Plan Assets	
Beginning of the Year	\$ 3,052,275
Actual Return on Plan Assets	33,998
Contributions	1,235,578
Disbursement Paid	(427,847)
Fair Value of Plan Assets End of Year	\$ 3,894,004
Funded (Unfunded) Status as of June 30, 2015	\$(5,054,390)

Status of the Clergy Postretirement Health Plan

(Unlike the clergy retirement pension plan, this plan has no assets. It is funded as a “pay as you go” plan.)

Accumulated Clergy Postretirement Benefit

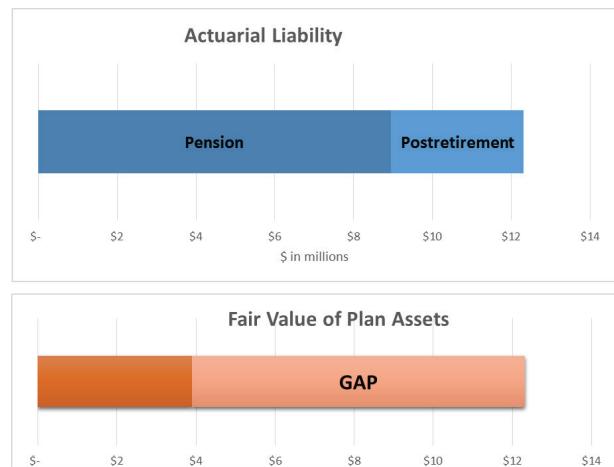
Obligation as of June 30, 2014.....\$3,089,408

Accumulated Clergy Postretirement Benefit

Obligation as of June 30, 2015.....\$3,370,200

Priests’ Retirement Funds Actuarial Liability versus Fair Value of Plan Assets | June 30, 2015

(At the end of the fiscal year, the clergy retirement and postretirement plans were underfunded by \$8.4 million)



Hawaii priests concelebrate Mass.



DIOCESAN FINANCE OFFICE

Two priests remembered

By Lisa Sakamoto

Those of you who knew the late Father Alan Nagai would remember him as an inspiring leader when it came to stewardship. Priests who were mentored by him in the concept of stewardship were the lucky ones.

His legacy lives on in the thriving parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Pearl City where, as pastor, he motivated the generosity of his parishioners. Recently, effective stewardship and strong lay leadership enabled the parish to raise more than \$2.5 million for a new parish hall and other major church renovations without having to borrow any money.

And when the Lord called Father Nagai home in 2014 at the age of 81, the long-time pastor didn't leave earth without remembering his fellow priests. In his will, he left approximately \$100,000 to the clergy retirement fund.

When Father Robert Siu passed away in 2014 at age 90, he too wanted to honor his fellow Hawaii priests. He left approximately \$250,000 to the clergy retirement fund. Father Siu is a local boy who grew up on Oahu and served our diocese before moving to the Mainland. He eventually retired in Wyoming where he continued to serve as a parish priest, never forgetting his roots. His family still lives in Honolulu and are members of Holy Trinity Church in East Honolulu.

Both Father Nagai and Father Siu are remarkable men of generous spirit. The money they donated was deposited at First Hawaiian Bank in the clergy retirement fund. It will help the diocese move toward its goal of a fully funded status for our clergy. Thank you, Father Nagai and Father Siu!

Lisa Sakamoto is the Diocesan Finance Officer.

DIOCESAN FINANCE OFFICE

Still a long way to go

By Lisa Sakamoto

Did you know that, as parishioners, we are ultimately the caretakers of our diocesan priests? They made a commitment to us when they promised to serve our parishes and provide for our spiritual needs, without asking much in return. For active working priests, the parish provides a place to live, food to eat, and a car to use.

When priests retire, however, they face many of the same fears as the rest of us. They must find a place to live, put food on the table, and buy their own cars. To help our retired priests, the Diocese of Honolulu years ago established a clergy pension plan.

To fund the pension, each parish contributes \$5,400 per year. These funds pay for the retired priests' pension. Our diocese has been on a pay-as-you-go pension plan, allowed under federal law. A church pension plan does not have to be funded. With more of our priests nearing retirement, there was growing concern that the diocese will not have sufficient funds to cover pension costs.

To support and care for our clergy retirees, Bishop Larry Silva designated approximately \$2.6 million of the With Grateful Hearts Campaign, raised through your generous donations. These funds are held in trust and administered by First Hawaiian Bank for the sole purpose of providing for our retired clergy.

It is a start toward ensuring that the diocese will have enough money to meet its obligations. But we still have a long way to go to fully fund our clergy pension plan.

Lisa Sakamoto is the Diocesan Finance Officer.



Parish volunteer.

Feeding the hungry.

Public rosary for peace.




MALAMA I KA MAKANA

Cherish The Gift | A Call to Stewardship
in the Catholic Church in Hawaii

Diocesan Stewardship Initiative

The diocesan stewardship initiative first announced by Bishop Larry Silva in 2013 — and officially launched at the annual Priests Convocation in May, 2014 — is making significant progress. As detailed below, over half the parishes in the diocese have a functioning Stewardship Committee, with another third in formation.

Aided by the diocesan Stewardship & Development Commission, and the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "Stewardship — A Disciple's Response," as its guide, parish committee members help promote the spirituality of stewardship as a way of life. Committee members are also tasked with helping both parish leaders and all the faithful better understand the practical applications of stewardship.

Simply stated, by praying gratefully, serving responsibly and giving generously — all three with increase to the Lord — parishes will be stronger and better equipped to carry out the mission of our faith both inside our faith communities and beyond.

For more information on parish stewardship, please visit catholicahawaii.org/stewardship or contact the Office of Stewardship & Development at 808-203-6723. Mahalo!

PARISHES WITH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES

Established and Functioning

OAHU	St. Pius X, Manoa
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, Honolulu	St. Rita, Nanakuli
Holy Trinity, Honolulu	Star of the Sea, Honolulu
HAWAII	Annunciation, Kamuela
Immaculate Conception, Ewa	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Papaikou
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pearl City	Malia Puka O Kalani, Hilo
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Waikane	Sacred Heart, Pahoa
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ewa	St. Joseph, Hilo
Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa	St. Michael the Archangel, Kona
MAUI	Holy Rosary, Paia
Sacred Heart, Punahou	Maria Lanakila, Lahaina
St. Ann, Kaneohe	St. Anthony, Wailuku
St. Anthony of Padua, Kailua	St. Joseph, Makawao
St. Augustine, Waikiki	St. Rita, Haiku
St. Elizabeth, Aiea	St. Theresa, Kihei
St. John Apostle & Evangelist, Mililani	KAUAI
St. John the Baptist, Kalihi	Immaculate Conception, Lihue
St. John Vianney, Kailua	St. Catherine, Kapaa
St. Joseph, Waipahu	MOLOKAI
St. Philomena, Honolulu	St. Damien, Molokai

In Formation

OAHU	Sacred Heart, Hawi
Blessed Sacrament, Honolulu	Sacred Heart, Naalehu
Our Lady of the Mount, Kalihi	St. Benedict, Honaunau
Sacred Heart, Waianae	St. Theresa, Mt. View
St. Anthony, Kalihi	MAUI
St. George, Waimanalo	Christ the King, Kahului
St. Michael, Waialua	Our Lady Queen of Angels, Kula
St. Roch, Kahuku	KAUAI
Sts. Peter & Paul, Honolulu	Holy Cross, Kalaheo
HAWAII	St. Raphael, Koloa
Holy Rosary, Pahala	St. Theresa, Kekaha
Our Lady of Lourdes, Honokaa	

DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Allan Deehr	Chair, East Hawaii
Dale Webster	Vice Chair, Maui/Lanai
Ray Lamb	Secretary, West Honolulu
Brandon Elefante	Central Oahu/Molokai
Pete Hoffman	West Hawaii
Sam Knepper	Kauai
Liza Lee	Windward Oahu
Lindbergh Marzo	East Honolulu
Irene Sandry	Leeward Oahu

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Transformational moments

By Mark Clark

It was Lent 1983 and I was sitting in a darkened room at St. Stephen Diocesan Center during a student retreat. I was pondering the opportunity to go from teacher to director of development at Saint Francis School in Manoa. I was feeling a bit queasy when suddenly a sense of calm, confidence and gratitude came upon me. Thank you, God!

Fast forward to 2013, and the challenge was to help parishes implement the practice of "stewardship as a way of life."

"No worries," Bishop Larry Silva said, "let's do it." Soon many of our clergy, staff, parish leaders and grateful stewards were stepping up. Here are just a few inspiring examples — some supported by With Grateful Hearts funding — of how stewardship is transforming our faith communities.

Time: Over the past three years, a total of 75 clergy and lay leaders have attended an annual International Catholic Stewardship Conference, bringing back new techniques (see "Conference sparks new ideas," right) and reporting an increase in prayer commitments, especially perpetual adoration.

Talent: At the 10 Hawaii parishes with an annual commitment renewal, new ministries have emerged to "engage the non-engaged" to serve others in their faith communities — and beyond.

Treasure: Parishes conducting an annual commitment of treasure renewal have seen significant increases in offertory and extraordinary donations. One parish on the Big Island received a six-figure gift during their first renewal. In turn, the parish tithes 10 percent to outside causes!

Additionally, several parishes, including the cathedral basilica, and the diocese have been blessed recently with generous bequests. Since planned gifts are often the largest and most impactful gifts received, please remember your Catholic church, school or social service in your will.

Stewardship is simple — "Pray Gratefully, Serve Responsibly, Give Generously" — all three with increase to the Lord. And although not easy, it is transformational.

Mark Clark is the director of the Office of Stewardship and Development.

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Conference sparks new ideas

By Melissa Pavlicek

I flew to Chicago with 32 other lay people and clergy from Hawaii for an International Catholic Stewardship Conference where we learned from people around the globe about promoting engagement in our parishes.

Joy-filled tears formed as I stood among 1,200 Catholics singing "This Little Light of Mine," led by a humble archbishop with a beautiful voice. I jumped to a standing ovation for Hawaii's own former Miss America Angela Baraquio Grey when she told the devastating story of her brother's suicide and how it strengthened her resolve to live according to Christ.

I squeezed into a standing-room-only classroom, feverishly taking down the words of Pope Francis as a skilled speaker applied them to our churches, our ministries and to us. I prayed with Catholics from India, Guyana and London and virtually every country and state in between. I met Hawaii-based priests from Ecuador and Columbia and we laughed that we had to travel to Chicago to do so.

I met Dominican priests celebrating the 800th anniversary of their order and spoke long with a priest whose order was founded only in 1982. I made connections with people who have faced the same challenges we face in Honolulu — how to serve the poor, how to bring back those who've left the church, how to build leaders among our young adults.

Someone at the conference said what's important is not the number of followers we lead, but the number of leaders we are developing. I read, listened, summarized, internalized and felt what stewardship really means: To receive God's gifts gratefully, to nurture God's gifts responsibly, to share God's gifts justly and to return God's gifts abundantly.

I came home with a backpack of books, a long list of ideas and a heart filled with desire to share what we learned.

Melissa Pavlicek is a parishioner of Mary, Star of the Sea Parish In Honolulu.

CHARITY AND JUSTICE

Our Witnessing to Jesus

Our Catholic social service program in the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii includes the partnership and collaboration of the following agencies whose expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and August 31, 2015 are presented as follows. Each of these entities were audited by CW & Associates CPA and were issued an unqualified (clean) opinion.

Organization	Total Expenses
Catholic Charities Hawaii*	\$26,521,600
Catholic Charities Housing Dev Corp *	\$182,700
Diocesan Pastoral & Social Ministries	\$1,088,987
HOPE Services Hawaii Inc.**	\$4,279,692
Total	\$32,072,979

*Catholic Charities Hawaii & Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation – Total audited expenses for the fiscal year ending 08/31/2015.

**HOPE Services Hawaii Inc. – Total unaudited expenses for the fiscal year ending 08/31/2015.



Diocesan Christmas party reunites women inmates with their children.

HOPE Services Hawaii helps Micronesians plant breadfruit trees on the Big Island.



HOPE SERVICES HAWAII

A privilege to serve

By Brandee Menino

I am so grateful to have the privilege to serve and lead a team that brings hope and light to those in our community who often are invisible. Every day, we have the honor to serve the most vulnerable persons in our community. Here are a few stories that inspire me.

HOPE Services helped the Office for Social Ministry distribute healthy non-perishable foods to the Big Island parish food ministries at St. Joseph, Malia Puka O Kalani, Sacred Heart (Pahoa), Sacred Heart (Hawi), Holy Rosary, Annunciation, St. Michael and St. Benedict.

Since 2006, St. Michael Parish ministries have prepared and served meals at HOPE Service's Friendly Place Resource Center which provides shelter, a mailing address, clothing, food, and assistance in locating housing to people experiencing homelessness.

Through an opportunity offered by the Hawaii Community Foundation to address the need for food security in the Chuukese community, we have had the privilege to organize the planting of 16 ulu (breadfruit) trees on properties we manage at St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Churches. Ulu is the staple starch for the Chuukese and brings back happy memories of their home in Chuuk.

Volunteer mentors make a commitment to help offenders navigate the challenges and barriers they encounter when taking their initial steps after regaining their freedom. Catholic parishioners have undergone training, orientation and learned the protocols needed to guide them as mentors for newly-released offenders returning to our Hawaii Island communities.

With the Dengue Fever outbreak, we have begun outreach efforts to homeless encampments in the bushes and forested areas to distribute #FightTheBite Dengue awareness information and supplies to help people protect themselves from mosquitoes.

HOPE Services is working in partnership with the governor's and mayor's offices, along with Hawaii Island Realtors, in coordinating a landlord summit in Hilo on Feb. 9, 2016, for a call to action to help house homeless families and individuals on Hawaii Island.

Brandee Menino is CEO of HOPE Services Hawaii.

OFFICE FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY

Reaching the vulnerable

By Father Robert Stark, SSS

One Ohana: Food and Housing for All is a diocese-wide effort following Pope Francis' call to encounter Christ by reaching out to the vulnerable and Bishop Larry Silva's appeal to join in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The Office for Social Ministry is coordinating these efforts among all Catholic schools, parish religious education, adult faith formation, youth and young adult ministries, along with vital help from diocese finance and administrative offices, the Stewardship Department and the Hawaii Catholic Herald staff.

In the schools, Rice Bowl provides mobile apps that connect middle school students with young people in developing countries. In religious education and adult formation classes, Rice Bowl provides exciting videos and creative activities for families to deepen their Lenten prayer, fasting and works of mercy. At the college level, Chaminade University is engaging young adults in special Rice Bowl events promoting fair trade products from families in the developing world.

There are plenty of other ways to get involved.

On Kauai, families with special challenges gather at Ohana Masses. On Molokai, families fill backpacks with food for hungry children. Maui parishes participate in Kupuna Kokua, and on Lanai, folks are exploring connecting parish youth and food ministries to local sustainability efforts such as kupuna home gardens and a family pig farm. On the Big Island, parishioners volunteer on farms that donate fresh produce to parish food pantries and Chuukese Catholics plant breadfruit trees in parish orchards.

On Oahu, parishes help women leaving prison and their families with food and housing. Oahu parishes also reflect on Pope Francis' environmental encyclical "Laudato Si'" with the help of the Hoa Aina o Makaha farm on diocesan land. All across Hawaii, the diocese has parish social ministries reaching out to homeless persons and other vulnerable people through food and housing ministries.

The diocese has two agencies that partner with parishes in serving the vulnerable: Catholic Charities and HOPE Services Hawaii. All are encouraged to work with them and Operation Lenten Rice Bowl to witness to Jesus as "One Ohana with Food and Housing for All."

Father Robert Stark, SSS, is the director of the Office for Social Ministry.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Giving lives help and hope

By Jerry Rauckhorst

Each year, Catholic Charities Hawaii touches the lives of more than 40,000 people in need through more than 30 programs and services. Through these experiences, I am inspired daily by many personal stories. Like that of Renee, whom I met recently at our Mary Jane Home.

Renee is an immigrant from the Philippines who came to live in Hawaii after leaving an abusive relationship. With a new fiancé, and a baby on the way, she was on a path to a new start. But complex circumstances led to her fiancé's incarceration. Renee found herself alone and her future uncertain. She reached out to our Mary Jane Home which offers a unique housing and educational opportunity for single women who need a safe, nurturing and affordable place to live during their pregnancy.

Renee told me she had felt nervous and scared about moving into the Mary Jane Home, but after she settled in, she found that our staff and the other residents were very encouraging and supportive. Renee recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. With help she received from Catholic Charities, she has the skills needed to care for her new family. With a grateful heart, Renee is planning for a bright future.

At Catholic Charities Hawaii, we feel blessed to be able to provide help and hope to people like Renee. This is only possible because of our many supporters, donors and volunteers who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure. Thank you for helping us carry out the good work and social mission of the church right here within our local communities.

Jerry Rauckhorst is the president and CEO of Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Grant for Augustine Educational Foundation.

Catholic school scholarship recipients doing community service.



TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Augustine Educational Foundation

Through the Augustine Education Foundation, the church has been able to award tuition assistance to enroll in a Catholic School. We are proud to present the following financial information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. AEF is audited by KMH LLP and was given an unqualified opinion.

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Opening Net Assets:\$8,292,042

Additions

Parish Contributions\$91,809
With Grateful Hearts Grant\$230,068
Major Gifts.....\$1,693,486
Investment Income.....\$2,334
Total Additions..... **\$2,017,697**

Uses

Tuition Assistance.....\$936,097
Teacher Development\$57,456
Administrative and Other Expenses\$142,736
Total Uses **\$1,136,289**
Ending Net Assets:..... **\$9,173,450**

Year	Applications	Awardees	Total Funded
2013	1,120	378	\$528,600
2014	1,134	396	\$641,250
2015	1,093	348	\$803,750

Since inception in 1984, AEF has distributed \$9,045,113 in tuition scholarships, \$404,050 in teacher curriculum grants.

Not included in this calculation are 30 PWH Scholars, funded with \$1,0191,350 in four Catholic high schools.

For the 2015-16 school year, 50 PWH Scholars will be funded with more than \$1,500,000.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Being a catechist

By Jayne Mondoy

“Careful. I did not say ‘working as’ a catechist, I said ‘being’ a catechist, because it has to do with life.”

Pope Francis said that at the 2013 International Conference on Catechesis in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican. I was there, in the 10th row, taking notes, and taking his words to heart.

The pope explained that catechists “guide others toward Jesus through their words, life and testimony. ‘Being’ catechists requires love ... for Christ ... for his holy people.”

An experience of “being” catechists is the goal of the catechist retreats offered by our Office of Religious Education. The 2015-2016 retreats are focused on preparing our hearts, with the help of the Holy Spirit, for a big change in our diocese — restoring the sacraments of initiation to their original order: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion.

Here are thoughts from three catechists who made the retreat.

“I’m a parent of two young children. My week has been crazy and I really needed this retreat time to reflect on ways the Holy Spirit is at work in my life and in the life of my children.”

“I was unsure about implementing the original order of the sacraments of initiation. Then I spent the day ... studying and praying over Scripture and sharing my faith story with others. It occurred to me that evangelization is to speak a language of love — God’s love. Sharing the message of God’s love is the mandate of every baptized Christian!”

“We agreed that just talking about our faith isn’t enough. Like our Blessed Mother, we have to be a kind of ‘theotokos,’ a God-bearer, especially for families.”

The catechist retreats are held annually. Come, be.

Jayne Mondoy is the director of the Office of Religious Education.

HAWAII CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Right call at the right time

By Deborah Manog

Head of school for St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School Betsey Gunderson clearly remembers her quandary last year when a student worried that he would no longer be able to attend the school. The boy’s father was battling a major health challenge that would render him unable to work for a while.

“The child had come to us from a public school and was not doing well in that environment, but here he was thriving,” Gunderson said. “Knowing that dad’s health was in bad shape, we knew that our school would be able to provide exactly what he needed in terms of spiritual support if his dad got even sicker.”

Gunderson decided that, against all odds, she would try her best to keep the student at St. Anthony. Suddenly, the phone rang with the chimes of an answered prayer. Hawaii Catholic Schools superintendent Michael Rockers informed her that if any student was in need of financial assistance, funds were available.

“It must’ve been the work of the Holy Spirit — Dr. Rockers had no way of knowing the situation,” Gunderson said. “I had a number of situations like that where he calls at just the right time and has helped us out.”

The student received financial aid from the Maui Catholic Student Tuition Assistance Fund, created with donations from a monthly second collection that most Maui parishes participate in.

Through the leadership of the Hawaii Catholic Schools office and Msgr. Terrence Watanabe, the Maui vicar instrumental in initiating the fund, along with the pastors and parishioners on Maui, the support of Bishop Larry Silva and the Augustine Educational Foundation, the student was able to continue his education at the Wailuku Catholic school.

“We have a lot of kids that, without a lifeline like that, would not be attending Catholic schools,” Gunderson said.

Deborah Manog is communications and marketing specialist for the Hawaii Catholic Schools office.

AUGUSTINE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Someone to believe in them

By Sue Ferandin

At first, we weren’t sure if it was a crazy idea, or just a dream. A Mainland donor with a connection in Hawaii came to us in 2012 and asked if the Augustine Educational Foundation would be interested in giving a couple of students the chance to change the direction of their lives through a four-year Catholic high school scholarship. Our foundation has been helping students with scholarships since 1984, so it seemed to be a great match.

The donor, PWH Educational Foundation, was specific. It wanted a student, Catholic or non-Catholic, entering high school from a public middle school, who struggled academically, who had a high level of financial need, and who needed someone to believe in them.

We started out with two students and a \$16,000 annual grant. This 2015-16 school year, we have 30 students and a grant of nearly \$1 million.

In a few short years, the PWH Foundation — with the Augustine Foundation, the Diocese of Honolulu and the First Hawaiian Bank Foundation — created a sustainable one-of-a-kind program in Hawaii.

The participating high schools are Saint Francis, Sacred Hearts Academy, Damien Memorial and St. Joseph Junior/Senior High in Hilo.

The impact of this program is measurable by student success. One PWH scholar recently wrote in a reflection paper she composed at the first peak of Mt. Olomana in Kailua that she would no longer listen to the voices in her head that said she couldn’t succeed. She is aiming for college. This scholarship, she said, changed her life for the better.

We can’t wait to see how the stories of the other PWH scholars unfold. Through their hard work, encouragement and faith, they are truly witnesses to Jesus. Their stories will be ones we will be proud to share.

Sue Ferandin is executive director of the Augustine Educational Foundation.



Tribunal workshop.

Burial of Msgr. Daniel Dever.

Pro-life demonstration.



HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

TRIBUNAL AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

Final commendations

By Patrick Downes

“Sometimes our prayers might change the situation and sometimes our prayers just change us.”

I began the obituary of Maui Deacon Hiram Haupu by quoting his own piece of advice. He had not written it for publication, but his wife, who discovered the “homily” in his pocket calendar after he died, felt it should be shared.

Writing an obituary often involves similar experiences of discovery.

This past year, three deacons died over the course of six short weeks, three generous lives “gone before us marked with the sign of faith.”

After Deacon Julio Akapito passed on Aug. 13 on the Big Island, I discovered a man well known in the Federated States of Micronesia, with a long list of accomplishments in law, politics, education and athletics.

In Hawaii, however, he followed his spiritual calling, serving his fellow Chuukese people struggling to resettle 3,600 miles from home.

A second Chuukese deacon, Misa Sewen, died Sept. 26. After serving most of his 27 years of diaconate in Chuuk, ill health required a move to Hawaii where he happily stepped forward to fill the spiritual needs of a growing community of Micronesians at his parish in Waianae.

In phone conversations with his wife Finipa and the parish secretary, I discovered a “loving, humble” person who gathered children for catechism, prepared couples for marriage, taught the pastor how to celebrate Mass in Chuukese, and preached.

Deacon Haupu died Sept. 13. The Hana-born, three-quarter Hawaiian, described as “an honest man of few words,” had put his heart into a tough ministry — visiting prisoners at the Maui Community Correctional Center.

I found a comment he made about it in a 2004 interview. “I realized that it is not you going in (prison), it is Jesus going in and doing that ministry,” he said.

An obituary does more than inform readers of a person’s passing. It’s a chance to offer a concluding commendation, a final thank-you for a life of service.

It is also an opportunity for the faithful departed to inspire us one more time.

Patrick Downes is editor of the Hawaii Catholic Herald.

‘This is your nemesis!’

By Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu

Liz (not her real name) has been in and out of prison numerous times. You would never know. She is sweet and smart, though, in conversation, worldly and street-wise.

We met at a Catholic service at the Women’s Community Correctional Center where I was a volunteer. Her life before incarceration was a “wild time.” Dealing drugs allowed her to live lavishly.

In prison, she was alone with no money. We agreed to store her possessions, including her beloved van, at St. Stephen Diocesan Center. My assistant Paulette Vernay and I decided to stick with her until she was free and on her own.

Once released, on social security, she had trouble keeping an apartment. She ended up homeless, sleeping in a box in Waikiki. Although homeless, Liz refused to be voiceless. She would go to the State Capitol to speak to legislators about the homeless crisis. She gave a face to our homeless brothers and sisters.

She could not get a driver’s license, having previously used so many aliases. She called us, saying, “I don’t know who I am any more!” Paulette got her baptismal certificate from the mainland, but that wasn’t enough. She eventually let a towing company give her some cash to haul her van away.

We’ve had some great adventures with Liz! “This is your nemesis!” she would say on our answering machine. She was not, of course. We grew to love her very much and see in her a unique person created by the same God who made all of us.

There is a happy ending; actually a new beginning. This past spring, Liz, age 77, settled into a nice, fully furnished apartment. She’s happy as a June bug, though a bit baffled. “Why me?” she asks. “How is it I got such a great place?”

God does hear and answer prayers.

Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu is the director of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

An act of mercy

By Mary L. Duddy

It is always wonderful to see people healed and free to move on in their life with the Lord after suffering through an invalid marriage. Often, like the Prodigal Son, they have made many poor choices, but now want to come back to their Father. Granting a degree of nullity, which declares that a marriage was invalid from the beginning, is a form of mercy, inviting people back home.

Working in the Tribunal, I have witnessed marriages fail because something was wrong from the very start. Here are scenarios I have seen many times:

- A young couple gets pregnant and feels pressured to “do the right thing.”
- One or both of the parties over-indulge in alcohol or drugs, negating their ability to be a good partner for life.
- The man is a womanizer or the woman is chronically unfaithful, a situation that persists after the wedding.
- One or both parties grow up in a family where a “divorce culture” is prevalent, where the permanence of marriage was never valued.
- The man exercises dominance over the woman, or the woman is “in charge,” in a relationship that often has a component of force and abuse.
- A mental illness or disorder prevents one party from having the capability of entering into marriage.

It is important to note that not all marriages that start out imperfectly fail. But a marriage is only considered invalid if there was a flaw from the beginning.

The process of petitioning for marital nullity is not easy (though Pope Francis has made it simpler), and I have witnessed many healing tears, but it is worth the price. God’s mercy always is.

Mary Duddy is the moderator of the Diocesan Tribunal.