

The Parish & School News

JANUARY 16, 2015

1 PEARL CITY
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
 “Prayers with sacrifice are pleasing to the Lord,” said **Father Efrén Tomas** from St. Joseph Church, Waipahu, during his homily on the fifth day of **Misa de Gallo** in our parish. It was indeed a challenge to get up early for the 5 a.m. dawn Mass for nine consecutive days. Along with **Father Pascual** and **Msgr. Thaddeus Mercado**, **Bishop Larry Silva** and several priests from other parishes took turns celebrating the Misa de Gallo from Dec. 16 through Dec. 24. A fruit basket and a handcrafted parol (star-shaped lantern) were offered during the presentation of gifts in each of the nine days. Each parol was then hung inside the rear of our church. A **special choir** sang Tagalog and Ilocano Christmas carols. As early as 4 a.m., members of various ministries, spearheaded by the **Filipino Ministry**, set serving tables in our pastoral center with scrumptious breakfast dishes. We celebrated the ninth day, Christmas Eve, with gift-giving, singing, dancing and a roast pig (lechon) served at breakfast. A heartfelt thanks to all who made our Misa de Gallo celebration joyous and festive! (Reported by Bernadette V. Cabe; photo by Noni Panen)



2 WAHIAWA
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish
 The generous parishioners once again donated 100 gifts to the children of Mailliland. Pictured are parish social ministry coordinator **Nicole Vannatta**, Catholic Charities Hawaii’s **Ahbleza Florence** and **Litia Mira** and our pastor, **Sacred Hearts Father Richard McNally**. At the **Wahiawa Community and Business Association’s annual Santa Parade** on Dec. 5, parishioners marched and passed out candy to the children lining the parade route along California Avenue. (Reported by Janice Vannatta and Jack Kampfer)



3 EWA
Immaculate Conception Parish
 As we begin 2015, we, individually and as a church, are asked to increase our **true stewardship**. Remember, the building is not the church; we are the church! During the next several months, we will spotlight individuals/groups within our parish community. Our first individual is **Michael Esquibil**, a parishioner for the last 36 years. A social worker with a master’s degree from the University of Hawaii, Michael is the chair of our **Parish Stewardship Committee**. He also lectures at weekend Masses. Michael obtained this willingness to serve from members of his family. His Mom is a eucharistic minister and his brother **Marvic** was a musician and choir leader for many years. When asked to describe what our church, parish means to him, Michael responded, “It’s my home.” Lastly, it’s the opinion of many parishioners that Michael’s true stewardship goal is to meet and greet every member of our parish community. Mahalo, Michael, for being a true example of giving your time, talent, and treasure to our church and our Lord! (Reported by Normand H.J. Robert)



4 KULA
Kula Catholic Community
 Parishioners of **Our Lady Queen of Angels, Holy Ghost Church** and **St. James the Less** made the holidays a lot brighter for our Maui families in need. The holiday season started with the annual **Thanksgiving Basket** fund drive. The money raised buys food for our brothers and sisters. Pictured are the youth shopping in Costco. Immediately after Thanksgiving, the **Angel Tree** project got under way. Students in the **religious ed program** decorated approximately 190 angels. Parishioners each selected an angel, purchasing the item written on it. The **Youth Group/Confirmation students** organized the gifts and delivered them to the **Maui Economic Opportunity** organization. Mahalo to our parishioners

for the abundance of your generosity given graciously throughout the year. (Reported by Mary Jean S. Bega)

5 PUNAHOU AND MANOA
Sacred Heart and St. Pius X Parishes
 We would like to acknowledge **Mr. Fidelis Lee**, choir director for our two parishes in Punahou and Manoa, on his graduation in December from **UH Manoa** in Orvis Auditorium with a B.A. in music. Fidelis has brought much joy and spiritual growth to our church in his three years as a devoted music director here. Congratulations! (Reported by Lynn Murata)

6 KALIHI KAI
St. Anthony Parish
 On Nov. 30, **Loreto and Imelda**

7 KALIHI VALLEY
Our Lady of the Mount Parish
 Christmas is not just a joyous sa-

cred event but also a whirlwind of activities and traditions. Starting with Advent, in its spirit of preparation, we had a wonderful time as a parish ohana **cleaning up the church and facilities**. The ensuing lunch fellowship was very rewarding. Then we had soul cleansing through the **communal penance** with four priest-confessors. Our solemn nine-day **Misa de Gallo** prepared us spiritually as we coupled our devotion with the sacrifice of getting up and braving the chilly mornings. The potluck of native dishes and delicacies after each Mass was made more delightful by the spirited singing of carolers. The vigil, midnight and day **Christmas Masses** were celebrated as the highlights of the season with greetings of Christ’s joy and peace to all. With the onset of the New Year 2015, we prayed to the God of life and our heavenly Mother to bless our parish and its **145th anniversary celebration** this year. Before we folded the season, the **religious education children and catechists** were treated on Epiphany Sunday with visits by **Santa Claus** and the **Three Kings** with gifts galore and a hearty fellowship for all. Our parish life goes on and joins the church-wide observance of the **Year of Consecrated Life**, prays for a responsive **Synod on the Family** and continues to imbibe the **spirit of joyful stewardship** among parishioners. (Reported by Fran Kovaloff)

8 HONOLULU
Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
 Our **Winter Fun Fest Annual**, the altar server appreciation party on Dec. 13, honored our **67 altar servers** for their dedication and hard work in serving the various liturgies at the cathedral basilica. A big mahalo to our chaperones for making this event so special, and for the guidance and support of our rector **Father John Berger**, **Father Marvin Samiano** and **Father Gordon Combs**! (Reported by Jonathan Farinas)

9 WAIMEA
Annunciation of the Lord Parish
 The West Hawaii Vicariate honored its **Island Treasures** on Dec. 13 at our parish. Pictured are the Annunciation and Ascension Parish treasures, from left, **Rose Hatakeyama, Roxanne Pung, Dr. Joe Triggs, Sherma Ambida** and **Leonard Baltz** with **Father Stephen Macedo** and **Bishop Larry Silva**. We are blessed to have them as part of our parish. Congratulations! ... About 80 parishioners attended the parish’s second annual **Las Posada** on Dec. 22 organized by the parish Hispanic community. The Las Posadas, or “the inns,” is traditionally a nine-day evening celebration symbolizing the journey of Mary and Joseph to find lodging. Parishioners and musicians sang the “Las Posada” song in front of closed doors at the church, the rectory and the parish hall where they were finally allowed in. They celebrated with a feast of enchiladas, tostadas, tamales, malasadas and hot-spiced cider. ... Children from the parish **religious education**

program participated wonderfully at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, as choir members, lectors, ushers and greeters. (Reported by Mary Erickson, Lisa Dahm and Gloria Bala)

10 KAHULUI
Christ the King Parish
 The parish **Youth Ministry** presented “**The Greatest Gift/Christmas Musical Showcase**” on Dec. 19 in the church with special participation by associate pastor **Father Joseph Pilotin** as the **Christmas Angel**. “Service to Christ and his people this Christmas will not be rewarded with a box covered in bows and ribbons, but with God’s greatest gift: JESUS,” said **Paris Sensano**, director, producer and choreographer. Often, Christmas gifts are the result of a specific request; but not so with God’s gift to us. God’s gift is unsolicited. We did not see our own need and ask for God’s help; God foresaw our need and sent his son to be the conciliation for our sins. “Praise God for the greatest gift we could ever receive: our Lord Jesus who gifted us everlasting life!” said youth and young adult ministers **Albert and Bobbie Sensano**. Thank you, **Father Adondee** and **Father Joseph**; music minister **Frank Chargualaf**, Paris Sensano, youth and their parents, and to all who attended the showcase including **Bishop Larry Silva**. (Reported by Audie Pascual)

11 MOLOKAI
St. Damien Parish
 Members of **Molokai’s Sacred Hearts Congregation** gathered here for a group photo this fall. Pictured, from left, are, **Brother Charles Ka’anui**, groundskeeper for the parish cemeteries and four churches; **Father William F. Petrie**, pastor; **Father Michael Kelly**, priest in residence; **Father Patrick Killilea**, pastor in Kalaupapa; **Sister Herman Aki**, parish religious education teacher; **Sister Jessie Kai**, religious education teacher and parish office assistant; **Sister Christine Plateros**, religious education music leader and teacher. The parishioners of the St. Damien (topside) and the St. Francis (Kalaupapa) and members of our island community are most grateful to the Sacred Hearts Community for their dedicated service to the faithful, the island people, the patients and the visitors to our island. Through them, we continue to tell the stories of the selfless service of **St. Damien, St. Mari- anne and Brother Dutton**. (Reported by Maria Sullivan)

12 HONOLULU
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa
 Many parishioners wore Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Filipino and Micronesian ethnic attire when the community gathered to give their appreciation to God at **Thanksgiving Mass**. **Father Gregorio Honorio Jr.** was the celebrant. **Deacon Roy Matsuo** read the Gospel. **Father Sydney Fernandez** talked about how we should count our blessings and be grateful for the basic necessities we have in our country, as many other people in the world do not



have them. Also he said that we should say “thank you” with a grateful heart because sometimes we say it but do not really mean it. The prayers of the faithful were said in different languages, including Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Micronesian and Hawaiian. Before the Mass concluded, several of the St. Theresa students did a hula dance. (Reported by Eric Boloson)

13 MAUI
St. Gabriel Mission
 The small Catholic community of **Our Lady of Fatima** in Ke-



anae gathered 35 parishioners for Thanksgiving Mass. **Father Leonard Semppija**’s homily focused on giving God thanks, honor and praises for all our blessings. All who attended provided a beautiful Thanksgiving luncheon that followed. (Reported by the parish)

14 PAPAIKOOU
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
 On Nov. 13, after the monthly Ilocano Mass, the parish’s **Filipino Catholic Club** hosted in the parish hall the annual island-wide **Queen of Charity Coronation** sponsored by the **Hawaii Coun-**

cil of Filipino Catholic Clubs. Those attending enjoyed fellowship and a variety of delicious food. Our FCC created the fabulous decorations. From our parish, **Ale’ah Gapo** was crowned Queen of Charity and **Jessica Valdez** was crowned Princess of Hope. **Celena Molina** from St. Michael Parish, Kailua-Kona, was crowned Princess of Faith. Congratulations to the FCC’s Hawaii Council and our parish FCC for a very successful venture. Pictured on the floor, from left, **Gabriel Bala, Celena Molina, Jessica Valdez** and **Charles Fernandez**. On stage,

from left, **Father Rufino Jose Gepiga, Queen Ale’ah Gapo, last year’s Queen Dominica Claravall and Roger Ragpa**. ... The **High School Youth and Young Adults Ministry**, with donations from parishioners, put together 10 baskets of canned goods and treats which were delivered to the homebound of the parish for Thanksgiving. ... During the Nov. 22-23 weekend, the delegates going to the **LA Religious Congress** in March held a very successful **Christmas bazaar** in the parish hall with baked goods, a food concession and craft vendors selling their wares. It was their last fundraiser to help defray the cost of their trip. (Reported by Pat Phillips; photo by Hermania Villanueva)

15 HAIKU
St. Rita Parish
 Following Dec. 14 Sunday Mass, parish families visited **Kula Hospital** bringing Christmas joy to the patients. Christmas caroling and wishing the patients a Merry Christmas brought smiles to their faces and happiness to the hearts of all. The **religious education children** presented the patients with Christmas cards they made in their classrooms. The patients also received paper teapots with tea and cookies made by **Robin Weeks**. Afterward the parishioners enjoyed lunch, fellowship and fun at Keokea Park. This is an annual event for our parish members and Kula Hospital. Pictured are **Debbie Favorito** and **Sandy Silva** leading the caroling. (Reported by Esther Yap)

16 PAHOA
Sacred Heart Parish
 The **Christmas Giving Tree** continued to amaze. Numerous families received donations of food for the holiday season thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. Mahalo to **Sally Ganiron** for your compassion for our brothers and sisters in need. ... Mahalos to the many who made our **Christmas fair** on Dec. 6 a financial success. The bake sale, auction and plate lunches provided the parish with one food and outstanding fellowship for all involved.... The **religious education students** performed a “**Christmas Play**” Dec. 21 in Avery Hall after the 10:30 Mass. ... Pictured are members of the **religious education program** get ready to march in the **Pahoa Christmas Parade** on Dec. 6. (Reported by Richard Robbins)

17 KAILUA-KONA
St. Michael Parish
 Our parish **Island Treasures** were honored Dec. 13 at Annunciation Church in Waimea. **Bishop Larry Silva** presided over the West Hawaii Vicariate Mass celebration/luncheon. Pictured with **Father Konelio “Lio” Faletoi** and Bishop Silva are the honorees, from left, **Renee-Mae Ota, Caroline Shultz, Keolani Keawe, Alana Yamamoto, Beth Bartlett, Doris and Henry Grace, Sharmayne Naone, Kathy and Robert Leopoldino, George “Fritz” Warren and Bonnie Miki**. (Missing are **Teresa “TJ” Moses, Lucia Uganiza** and

EDITOR’S CHOICE

Rene Lemus.) These individuals have served their parish well in a variety of ministries over the years and each has given unselfishly of their time, talent and treasure. (Reported by *Sharmayne Naone*)

18 MAKAWAO St. Joseph Parish

The **Epiphany** was joyfully celebrated with a **Three Kings play** in which children of St. Joseph, St. Rita and Holy Ghost parishes reenacted the miraculous birth of Christ. The Magi offered their gifts to baby Jesus and then answered questions from the children who were eager to know what the camels ate on the long journey to find Jesus, among other things. The Kings accepted letters from the children with their hopes for the coming year, gave blessings to young and old, shared their chocolate "gold" coins and, most importantly, reminded everyone to keep seeking Jesus. The event was filled with a delightful sense of wonder thanks to the Kings, **Father Leonard Ssempijja** (pastor of St. Rita), **Father Cristiano Braz** (from London, serving in Texas) and parishioner **Michael Buxbaum**, play coordinator **Sandra Silva** and members of the **Neocatechumenal Way**. (Reported by *Christina Gonzales*)



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KALAUAPAPA St. Francis Parish

Joy to the world! It was some minutes after 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We had just celebrated our first Christmas Mass in company with our sisters and brothers from our neighboring **Congregational Church**. Led by members of the **St. John Vianney Choir** from Kailua, we sang the "Hawaiian Doxology" after the blessing, and ended our Mass with a rousing chorus of "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Now it was time to gather in our parish hall, which is said to be part of St. Damien's original Kaluaupapa town church. There we shared in a magnificent meal prepared by the choir members. I wish they would visit more often! The next morning, being Christmas day, we again assembled for the celebration of Mass at 9 a.m. (Reported by *Father Patrick Killilea ss.cc.*)



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KULIOUOU Holy Trinity Parish

Interested in becoming a deacon? The parish held its first of two **deacon information sessions** Jan. 13 in the parish meeting room. The second is Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. **Deacon Dan and Rita Guinaugh** are hosting. Questions? Contact Deacon Dan, 396-9726, or email drguinaugh@hawaiiantel.net. (From the parish bulletin)

HONOLULU Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

We are currently re-booting our **Youth Ministry Program**. We are looking for adults and teens willing to assist us in the New Year. Please contact the office in normal business hours if you are interested in being a part of our new leadership team for 2015. There will be more announcements in the future! Have a blessed New Year! (From the parish bulletin)

WAILUALA St. Michael Parish

The new pastor, **Sacred Hearts Father Lusius Nimu**, writes in the Jan. 4 parish bulletin: "As we welcome the New Year 2015, it is

with great pleasure and excitement I write my first message to all of you and at the same time I would like to encourage everyone to join the journey of life and faith. Let us make our church even more vibrant by supporting our pastoral programs to become a better stewardship community, youth and young adult welcoming community, a family-oriented community, as well as a physically healthy community. There are the challenges we might face in the coming year with the changes but I trust and hope in the Lord that we can overcome them. I know that I am not alone in this endeavor." (From the parish bulletin)

19 WAILUKU St. Anthony Junior-Senior High School

Our **ACTION TEAM** coordinated the collection of socks/footies and lap blankets distributed to the neighboring senior citizens at the **Wailuku Hale Makua** care facility. Staff and students contributed to the collection. They also hosted an afternoon "Winter Ball" for the residents on Dec. 5, with caroling,

games, door prizes and fellowship. **Seventh graders** created Christmas cards. The **National Honor Society** also serenaded the residents with carols on Dec. 16, right after final exams. Pictured is eighth grade **ACTION TEAM** captain **Tatiana Martinez** helping a Hale Makua guest in a holiday game. (Reported by *Art Fillazar*)

20 PEARL CITY Our Lady of Good Counsel School

Our school kicked off the blessed holiday season with our **Advent Program**, Dec. 5. Students in **preschool-3 through eighth grade** treated friends and family to beautiful songs honoring our Savior's birth. The children look forward to this yearly event, especially the eighth grade which has the honor of reenacting the Nativity. **Lauren Silva** and **Taylor Valdez** narrating the story of the glorious birth of Jesus. **Maxwell Spencer** portrayed the role of Joseph and **Lyndsey Sasada** played Mother Mary. First grader **John Malaki's** baby brother **Thaddeus** played a well-behaved baby Jesus. Also performing were **Jaycen Crisostomo, Jaydon**

Tomas and **Matthew Valencia** (shepherds); **Sean Kaolelopono, Jonah Kea** and **William Rapisura** (Wise Men); **Alyssa Kahiapo** and **Christa-Faith Sabangan** (angels); **Holly Ann Fernandez** (innkeeper's wife); **Isaiah Galanto** and **Richard Seaman** (prophets); **Destyn Kenui** (King Herod); **Asia Maluyo, Iwalani Segall** and **Jessica Williams** (actresses playing modern day shoppers). The costumes were each lovingly handcrafted by school staff member **Mrs. Amano** whose creativity brought each character to life. To all the students, teachers, faculty and staff who worked so hard and put on a spectacular show, a round of applause for a job well done! (Reported by *Ginger Kamisugi*)

21 KEKAHA St. Theresa Parish Happy New Year to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ! So many activities filled our **Advent and Christmas season** and we are all now back into the routine of school, work, etc. We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in our parish who contributed to

all of the various **programs and liturgies** celebrated these past weeks and ask God to bless each and everyone for their stewardship of time, talent and treasure! Pictured is the **Nativity display** in our church. Here's looking forward to more stories in the New Year! God's blessings and Happy New Year! (Reported by *Chantal A. Duarte*)

22 EWA BEACH Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

Happy Anniversary! Our school celebrated its **47th anniversary** with a **spaghetti dinner** on Nov. 21. The **kindergarten class** was one of many groups who enthusiastically entertained throughout the night. Their performance of "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart," created a comfortable, family-like atmosphere that set the tone for the entire festivities. With the help of **Bravo's** restaurant, proceeds from the delicious dinner will fund the school's technology program and other school projects "educating for life." May our school continue to serve the Ewa Beach community and share God's love for many more years to come! (Reported by *Tracy Spencer*; photo by *Fred Ponce*)

23 HONOLULU Maryknoll School

A very distinguished and high-achieving Maryknoll alumna, **Dr. Maria (Marel) Ver**, has earned a position as one of the five surgeons at **Pali Momi Medical Center**. Dr. Ver is the second female to hold a position like this at the institution. As a personal and professional dignitary, Dr. Ver kindly spoke to young Spartans at the most recent **National Junior Honor Society** ceremony in December. She is pictured here with grade school vice principal **Kristopher Kern**. After graduating from the University of Southern California, Dr. Ver received her medical degree from New York Medical College and finished her general surgery residency at the University of Illinois Chicago, Mount Sinai Hospital. We are so proud and honored to have an amazing person like her as part of the Maryknoll ohana. Congratulations and God bless, Marel! (Reported by *Laura Essenberg*)

24 KALIHI St. Anthony School

Our school believes in sharing time, talents and treasure in our community as our way of thanking God for all his blessings. Our **first community service** for the school year, the weekend after Thanksgiving Day, was well attended by our **St. Paul sisters, students, parents and alumni**. We visited the residents of **Maunalani Nursing Center**. The costumes were each lovingly handcrafted by school staff member **Mrs. Amano** whose creativity brought each character to life. To all the students, teachers, faculty and staff who worked so hard and put on a spectacular show, a round of applause for a job well done! (Reported by *Tess Reyes*)

25 KAILUA St. Anthony School

A week before the Christmas break, our school's **Safe and Caring Families** got together for a special holiday activity. The **Safe and Caring Families** are made up of one or two students from kindergarten through eighth grade, led by an eighth grader and mentored by a teacher. This year they wanted to bring some **cheer to the housebound**. The students

made decorative ornaments that were placed on wreaths that were distributed throughout the parish. The wreaths brought joy and happiness to those unable to go out and share in the holiday festivities. The recipients were especially impressed and appreciative that these came from the hands and hearts of children. A new year and semester has begun and the students have returned enthusiastic to get on with their studies and to share their many talents with those in need. (Reported by *Patricia Barros*)

26 HONOLULU Sacred Hearts Academy

Students presented **Aloha United Way** with a check for \$10,700 on Dec. 4. They raised funds throughout the semester with a popular **bake sale**, gathering donations for "**Dress Down Day**" and celebrating Halloween by dressing in **Costumes for a Cause**. Lower school students collected **Coins for a Cause** to increase the contribution. Pictured are **Aina Katsikas**, lower school student council advisor **Heather Maggini-Mackay**, Aloha United Way president and CEO **Cindy Adams**, lower school vice principal **Remea Tam**, and **Alyse Ganser** (Reported by *Hayley Matson-Mathes*)

27 HONOLULU Holy Family Catholic Academy

The school **robotics team** earned the opportunity to compete in **Hawaii FIRST LEGO League (FLL) State Championship 2014** held Dec. 13 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. The team, eighth graders **Clarissa De Smet, Mina O'Reilly** and **Alex Roynon**, seventh grader **Brenden Young**, sixth grader **Jachob Dolak** and fifth grader **Roice Galapon**, placed 10th out of 48 participating teams. Proud of their team's strong performance, design, and core values interviews are coaches **Paul Alejo** and **Sonia McMichael**, and both middle school science teachers. This season marks the team's fourth year of competition which engages students in real-world engineering challenges and helps them learn to make positive contributions to society. (Reported by *Christina Malins*; photo by *Lauren Gomez*)

28 HONOLULU Star of the Sea Early Learning Center

Here are some of our recent fun activities. We did **pumpkin carving** on Oct. 29. All of our children enjoyed planting the pumpkin seeds after we made our jack-o-lantern. Our **Halloween parade** on Oct. 31 was a great success. The children were excited to put their costumes on and walk around campus. ... **Santa** visited our school! Children were excited to take pictures with the man from the North Pole! ... Pictured are **toddlers planting** in our garden. (Reported by *Ayako Sahara* and *Mary Williams*)

29 KAPAA St. Catherine School

It has been a busy November and December. We celebrated the **Feast of St. Catherine** on Nov. 25. The second graders, under the direction of **Mr. Mike Cruz**, took part in our Mass. The morning began with a procession to the church. Mass was followed by a blessing of a new painting of **St. Catherine of Alexandria**, cre-



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ated by **Mrs. Sally Harrison**, our after-school care coordinator. ... On Dec. 2, "**Ronald McDonald**" visited the kindergarten through fourth grade, teaching the values of trustworthiness, responsibility, respect and fairness. ... On Dec. 19, under the direction of **Madame Andrea Corbo**, our school presented a very unique pop culture Christmas program. It began with the **Ukulele Band and Choir**, under the direction of **Mrs. Mary Alfiler**. The kindergarten students were adorable as they presented the Nativity story. The pop culture part of the show had celebrities bringing Baby Jesus gifts such as compassion, love and family. (Reported by *Andrea Corbo*)

30 AIEA St. Elizabeth School

Every year the **School Praise Choir** entertains in different venues throughout our community. This past holiday season, our choir was privileged to entertain for the senior citizens at the **Alea**

Heights Rest Home. They sang and danced to a variety of Christmas carols. The residents of the facility joined the choir in singing and also playing musical instruments. This was a great experience for both the students and the seniors. (Reported by *Sharon Nagasawa*)

31 KAILUA St. John Vianney School

Our parish is pleased to host its fifth "**Breakfast with the Bishop**" on Jan. 25, in the parish hall. A delicious buffet will be served after all three Masses, at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon, as a fundraiser for the parish school. The proceeds will be used to improve the school's facilities and for tuition assistance. **Bishop Larry Silva** will attend all three meals and will speak on the value of a Catholic education and parish schools. Our pastor **Father Thomas Gross** and principal **Caryn DeMello** will greet and thank everyone for their support. Each year pa-

mas." The program included a reenactment of the nativity story, and a guest appearance and accompaniment by parent and reggae artist **Charley Hennessy**. They donned their hand-made coconut Christmas tree T-shirts and hula skirts. They finished with the Hawaiian-style "Twelve Days of Christmas" which led into a delicious potluck feast. We wish all the continued joy of Christ all through the New Year. (Reported by *Helen Souza*)

33 WAIPAHU St. Joseph School

We celebrated the **season of Advent** with weekly prayer services. Pictured is seventh grader **Thaddeus Damo** lighting the candles for the third week of Advent. (Reported by *Keala Kia*)

34 HONOLULU St. Theresa School

Our school celebrated the **Advent season** by gathering together as a family each morning for a special prayer service. Each class had an opportunity to present a reading from the Bible and create a symbolic ornament that represented the Scripture passage. Ornaments were hung on **several Jesse trees** displayed in the school's hall, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Our entire school was able to come together as a family to prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus. The students especially enjoyed being a part of the celebration by hanging their special ornament. (Reported by *Lauren Ramirez*)

35 KALIHI St. John the Baptist School

We would like to congratulate **Rhia Sales** and **Samantha Sebastian** who scored 100 percent on the **ECRA Writing Assessment test**, and also **Aeron Justin Bali** and **Rhesel Rivera** who scored 100 percent on their **ACRE test (Assessment of Children Religious Education)**. We are so proud of you! Keep up the awesome work. (Reported by *Ainona Petelo*)

HILO St. Joseph Junior-Senior High School

As a response to Hawaii schools overall **decline in SAT results**, we implemented a **free SAT tutoring program** for all our high school students in 2012. Now in its second year, the free SAT program is yielding concrete benefits. "SJS has always been above state and national averages when it came to college entrance scores," says program coordinator **Dr. Nathan L. Yocum**. "But now we've moved our students into a whole new category." Juniors and seniors who took the October SAT received an average score of 1,717. As of 2013, the Hawaii state average was 1,462 and the national average was 1,497. Students can take up to 56 hours of free tutoring a year. Due to the success of the program, our school is offering free enrollment to all Catholic students on the Big Island. Said principal **Dr. Llewellyn Young**, "We are excited to share this opportunity with our Catholic ohana." SAT classes are available in September and June. For information, contact the school office at (808) 935-4935. (Reported by *Jessica Pacheco*)