

the parish news

Next
School
News issue,
March 24

1 PEARL CITY

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

On President's Day, our **Filipino Ministry** members, family and friends volunteered to help at the **33rd annual Great Aloha Run**. They passed out water to more than 20,000 runners and walkers which included our pastor **Father Pascual Abaya IV** and parochial vicar **Father Rex Rilveria**. This event raises funds for more than 150 local non-profit organizations in Hawaii. This is the first of the many Catholic action projects the Filipino Ministry have planned for 2017. Volunteers were **Bernard Cabatu, Julia Cabatu, Sam Damasco, Jenie Damasco and granddaughter, Rudy Salvador, Nora Salvador, Genette Perreira, Tessie Kalawa, JoAnn Pamplona, Geri Aranaydo, Kayrn Daguio, David Okuda, Kelvin Cabatu Hailey Mock, Regina Cabatu, Michelle Acpal, Abe Lagrimas, Lisa Lagrimas Marilyn Salvador, Amparo Munoz.** (Reported by Julia Cabatu)



2 PEARL CITY

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

Our parish has been blessed with volunteer help from **TLC Lanakila Wahiawa**. It is a program that provides adults with disabilities activities and a learning university that helps participants obtain gainful employment. The group also volunteers at the **Wahiawa Botanical Gardens**. Taking a break from cleaning our church and pictured with their supervisor **Donna Semorile** are **John Hirama, Chester Bargaslsky, Richie Cardiz, Leon Rosales, Raynette Shim and Jeremy Antonio.** (Reported by Janice Vannatta)



On Feb. 26, our parish celebrated the burning of the **blessed palm leaves** from last year. The ashes were used for Ash Wednesday. It was a very solemn celebration especially when the children wrote prayers and dropped them into the fire so their prayers will be included in the ashes. A 10-year-old girl asked me for a pen to use, then asked me to correct what she wrote. It was perfect and did not need correction. I was touched by her sincerity. She wrote, "Lord, please help and guide me always as I follow you." (Reported by Pacita Baron)



3 WAIHEE

St. Ann Parish

They did it! The roofing project was a test of our patience as rain was an issue in the past weeks. For whatever reason, it was off-and-on again. However, on Feb. 18, under clear skies, members of our parish replaced its 40-year-old, 775-square-foot, aluminum roof. Volunteers included: food and water (three cases), **Precila Peros, Mr. and Mrs. Marco Molina.** Ground support crew: **Tony Vertido, Keanu Hoopai, James Peros, Vanessa Medeiros, Ep Whittenburg, Daniel Ornellas and Juan Asuncion.** Roofing crew: **Bob O'Gorman, Ed Torres, Wendell Molina, Hoi Vu, Miguel Castro, Taiana Ornellas.** It was done in a day! Thank you all for your kokua! God is good! (Reported by Daniel Ornellas)



4 LAHAINA

Maria Lanakila Parish

Our parishioners rented a bus to attend **Our Lady of Fatima Statue Centennial Tour** in Paia, Maui. More than 60 west-side parishioners made the journey to join the vicariate

gathering on this occasion and participated in the devotional prayers. (Reported by Mary Rosenthal)

5 HAIKU

St. Rita Parish

On Feb. 26, **Father Gary Colton** visited our parish. The four First Communion candidates talked to the parishioners about the importance of **Rice Bowl Collections** during Lent. They presented our Rice Bowls to Father for his blessing and offered them to our parish at the end of Mass. Pictured from left, **Madison, Jake, Jerzy and Elisabeth.** (Reported

by Christine Matheis)

6 KANEOHE

St. Ann Parish

Food, fellowship and fun happened at **Mardi Gras** on Feb. 28, in the Parish Center. The **Adult Faith Formation Team** provided an informal session on how Mardi Gras is celebrated around the world and Hawaii, along with fun facts on how Mardi Gras got started and the meaning behind the beads, floats and the bright colors of the festivities. We all enjoyed the delicious King's cake, malasadas, fruits

and Mardi Gras punch! Pictured is **Deacon Billy** explaining Mardi Gras celebrations in Quebec. (Reported by Carla Simao)

7 HAWI

Sacred Heart Parish

These four religious education students from our parish, **Maddie Buczyna, Saphira Cambra, Coco Drew and Kai Drew** went on a retreat to St. Benedict Painted Church on Jan. 29 to see the international statue of **Our Lady of Fatima.** **Patrick Sabat**, custodial keeper of Our Lady, shared the Lady's message.

Our "call to duty" is to pray. Our goal is to reach for the "halo" to get to God's presence in heaven. They joined in a procession with the Lady from the worship hall to the church where the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary were prayed, followed by quiet meditation. They participated in several activities including drawing how they felt, how they were blessed or what they were thankful for. Their retreat continued with the outdoor Stations of the Cross while reciting the Glorious Mysteries. The wonderful Sunday ended with fellowship and a big bowl of stew and rice. About 40 parishioners also journeyed to St. Benedict throughout the day, traveling in their own cars or on the bus provided by our parish. What a beautiful evening!

... About 75 people accepted **Father Eli's** invitation to a **Valentine Potluck Dinner** — an awesome evening with Father Eli, family, friends, lots of ono food, dancing and fellowship. The ice breaker of the evening was finding Our Valentine Couple. Cut up construction papers were given to the men and women. We had to mix and mingle and find your match to be our Valentine. **Mr. Tom Stuart and Mrs. Lydia Mones** matched and became our Valentine couple for the evening. They received head leis, leis and heart-shaped candy boxes filled with chocolates. (Reported by Lee Rivera)

8 WAIMANALO

St. George Parish

We held our annual **Mardi Gras** celebration on Feb. 28 with a delicious spaghetti dinner. There were also lots of fresh, hot malasadas and other desserts and goodies like root beer floats and ice cream sundaes. Other events included a mask-making contest (adult entries pictured), musical chairs and dancing. It was a great evening of fun and fellowship. (Reported by the parish)

9 AIEA

St. Elizabeth Parish

On Feb. 10, our parish's first-time **Mardi Gras** event was a delightful and fun-filled evening sharing mercy, grace and gratitude. All were in happy moods, donning party attire and creative masks that were very elaborate and beautiful and beads galore and hats too! Dinner at the **Honolulu Country Club** served up tasty Hawaiian food with a flair. The **Band Audissey** provided entertainment and dance music along with **Dino Javier.** But besides being happy Catholics enjoying each other's company, there was a purpose to our evening. It was a fundraiser with a portion of the ticket purchase benefitting four ministries: **Stewardship, TMIY, Good Samaritan and Life Teen.** Much gratitude to the committee members who spearheaded this event, **Dan Date, Keola Kalani, Rose Javier, Sister Ruth, Nhung Nguyen, Kristen Rothermel, Eric Austin,** and our many sponsors. We also thank our priests **Father Arnold** and **Father Sammy** who gave the okay to move forward, and the 190 of our generous and ever faithful parish family who came. It was such a success that Father Arnold announced a second Annual Mardi Gras for 2018! And the secret to having a successful event is having a great emcee like **Keola Kalani** — wowee! Thank you all, but we thank God the most for filling us with your mercy and grace. Our gratitude knows no end. Pictured in their masks are John and Cecilia



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

Betham and Rose Javier, front. (Reported by Wendy Ford)

KEKAHA

St. Theresa Parish,

Our parish has been blessed with stewardship in action. We now have a **finance committee** made up of dedicated parishioners giving of their time and talent! Our parish thanks all of our existing ministry and committee members for their continued giving of self in their various capacities, but we want to highlight the following people who have taken this step to get our parish finance committee back in action: **Darlene Muraoka, Chairperson, Consa Pigao, Secretary, Editha Barba, Treasurer, Paul Hung, Lisa Johnston, Gerry Mararagan and Tam Tran.** May God bless all of our dedicated parish volunteers! (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte)

10 KAPOLEI

St. Jude Parish

Pictured are some of the youth that participated in fun and games at our **Youth Volunteer Appreciation Day.** Many thanks to youth coordinator **Keahi Teson, Judy Datzman, Donna Caris** and our young adults for all their help and support! (Reported by Caren Argenzia)

11 NUUANU

St. Stephen Parish

It was a beautiful morning on Jan. 8, Epiphany Sunday, for the blessing of our church elevator. **Madeline Wong**, one of our kupuna, cut the maile lei, followed by **Bishop Larry Silva** blessing the elevator. The first riders up to the church were kupuna in their 90s and included **Mrs. Helen Luke** and her three grandchildren who represented families. The second group were in their 80s, followed by others. Altar servers, lectors, deacon **Joe Soon, Father Kelley Yalmadau** from Yap, **Father Mario Raquipo**, pastor, Bishop Silva and **Regina** rode up, processing to the altar to begin the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The Epiphany elevator helps bring worshipers to Mass. The kupuna and disabled can respond with trust to participate fully in the church community and parish family. It is our blessing, our mission and joy to bring others to Jesus. We are the Star to lead everyone to worship Jesus. Fellowship and entertainment followed in the hall. The **Knights of Columbus** served the kupuna at their table and helped at the food line. Since 1968, parishioners and visitors, if they did not

enter church through the front door, walked up and down 20 steps. Our long-awaited elevator took about 18 years to be built. Our sincerest and deepest gratitude go to those who helped with the completion of the elevator. We dedicate this significant event to all our kupuna. Pictured, from left, **Laura Chun, Mary Kano, Betty Lowe, James Solidum, Frank Pacarro, Al Chong and Ron Asato.** (Reported by Ginny Jordan; photo by Marie Tokuda Wong)

12 KIHAI

St. Theresa Parish

On Feb. 12, two of the longest married couples in the parish were called forward to receive a special blessing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. **Brigido and Victoria Acoba** were married on April 14, 1952 (65 years) and **George and Pat McDonald** were married Feb. 14, 1953 (64 years). Both couples were honored in the **Rite of Marriage blessing** as the church and community extended their hands toward them in prayer. **Father John Hatcher**, visiting from North Dakota, administered the rite of blessing. A significant sign of God's love in our world is sacramental marriage and these couples are living proof of love and commitment that is a much-needed sign among our younger generations. These couples give us hope that if God is made the center and foundation of marriage, it can last a lifetime. (Reported by Melissa Ramirez)

KULIOUOU

Holy Trinity Parish

Our parish is having a **Lenten Experience** and all are welcome! Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, on March 13, 14 and 15, at 7 p.m., **Capuchin Father Mike Dalton** will speak about "A Word From the Cross, from Ashes to Easter," a Lenten experience. A Reconciliation service follows on March 16, at 7 p.m. (Reported by Deacon Dan Guinaugh)

HONOLULU

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish

The parish **Young Adult Ministry** seeks to be involved in our community so that we may enrich each other spiritually, intellectually and physically in this phase of our life journey. We meet after Sunday 6 p.m. Mass to learn, share our faith, for prayers and reflection. We also love the fellowship with one another. We also do community service. On Feb. 12, we had a presentation on the **Ainistad Movement**, an anti-

human trafficking initiative. This presentation was the first in a series raising awareness among our parishioners. On Feb. 19 was the first part of a three-part movie on the life of **St. Bhakita**, patron saint of slaves. (From the parish bulletin)

WAIALUA

St. Michael Parish

Mahalo everyone for making our first **Health Fair** a huge success. Thank you to the vendors from **Hawaiian Eye, Lanakila Pacific, Louis Quality Health, Financial Benefit Insurance, Hoopono Healing, Bone Marrow Registry**, the musicians, dancers, and the youth ministry who prepared lunch. A special thank you to guest speaker **Dr. Paul Palalay** who talked about the basics of cancer. It was very informative. The audience was so attentive. Big mahalo and appreciation to **Father Lusius** and all the volunteers who assisted. (From the parish bulletin)

13 ENCHANTED LAKE

St. John Vianney Church

Our parish held its **21st Annual Mardi Gras** celebration on Feb. 25 in the parish hall. Over 250 people dined on delicious gumbo and more, enjoyed live entertainment on three stages, joined in the Grand Parade which concluded with a balloon drop of 600 green, gold and purple balloons. ... During Lent, our parish will conduct the **Stations of the Cross** on Friday nights. The **Faith Formation Committee** and the **Service Commission** have planned three Lenten **supper and movie nights**, on March 11 and 25 and April 8, in the parish center basement after Saturday evening Mass. A **parish Lenten mission**, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on March 20, 21 and 22 inside the church, will be presented by **Jesuit Father Philip Chircop**. ... **Adoration of the Eucharist**, which began on March 4, will again take place on April 1 immediately following the 8 a.m. Mass. ... The **Windward Knights of Columbus (Council 6307)** will host their annual **fish fry** in our parish hall on March 17. Funds help Catholic school students in financial need (specifically at St. John Vianney and St. Anthony Schools). Tickets may be purchased after weekend Masses or at the door. ... On March 19 at 4 p.m. the **Oahu Civic Orchestra** will present a spring concert in the church featuring two pianists, **Robert Mondoy** and **Jordon Klein**. A reception will follow and the public is invited. For more information, call the parish office at 262-8317. (Reported by Earl Walker)