

# the parish news



## 1 KALIHI VALLEY

### Our Lady of the Mount Parish

Gathered as one family, our parish priests and parishioners celebrated with joy and gratitude two events, the patroness feast and the 147th parish anniversary. Novena prayers were said for nine days in preparation and in devotion to Our Lady of the Mount. Our priests concelebrated the feast day Mass on Aug. 20. This was preceded by floral offering of the faithful and crowning of the Blessed Lady's image by **Gloria Rodrigues**. Led by the **Knights of Columbus** and the altar servers, the solemn procession climbed up to the grotto where the holy rosary was prayed. The faithful processed back to the church for the final prayers and blessing and then proceeded to the parish hall for fellowship. A slideshow of the photos shot by **Jun Cortez** during the previous parish events were shown. This day, too, was the opening of the religious education classes which enabled the catechists and students to participate. The **Samoan kids** provided entertainment and **Robert Liua**, the youth ministry chair, served as emcee. We thank our priests, parish leaders and parishioners who made the celebration meaningful and memorable. Guests and friends from various parishes also attended including **Father Danny Laeda** and **Father Francis Sanchez**. The **Portuguese Club, Irmandade de Nossa Senhora da Monte**, was again so gracious to allow us to go up the grotto and afterward served their famous malassadas. The **Kalihi-Uka School** through the administrative staff provided additional parking. Through the loving intercession of Our Lady of the Mount, may God bless our parish and all parishioners, now and always. (Reported by Fran Kovaloff)

## 2 WAHIAWA

### Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

Our parish catechists recently gathered for their annual retreat at the **Benedictine Monastery** in Waialua. They are pictured with their pastor, **Father Ajith Kumar Antony Dass**. The instruction and beautiful setting inspired the catechists for the coming school year. (Reported by Jack Kampfer)

## 3 HAWI

### Sacred Heart Parish

It was a hit! The parish picnic on Aug. 27 was well attended. Mahalo to all the members of the picnic committee and to the kitchen crew, your planning, set up and presence was much appreciated. A bigger mahalo to all who came out and supported this event. Without your support, all the planning would have been in vain. The church provided the hot dogs and hamburgers. The members provided salads and desserts galore. The keikis enjoyed several games. But the hit of the day was the waterslide run by **Laurie Koustik** and **Hokani Maria**. While the keikis enjoyed the outdoors, **Leo Guitang** and **Liz Bautista** were doing Bingo indoors. First co-winners were **Raymond Moniz** and **Harmony Rocha-Fernandez**. We also provided a first aid station with the go-to person being nurse **Kui Len Gibson**. Luckily the day



went without incident. While all the games were going on, some members just chose to sit on chairs outside on the lawn, enjoying the beautiful day and each other's company. (Reported by Lee Rivera)

## 4 EWA

### Immaculate Conception Parish

Matthew's Gospel 18: 20, states: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Well, on Sept. 4, our parish held its annual summer Labor Day Picnic. It was again held on church grounds. The high humidity and scorching temperatures didn't keep the parishioners from attending this family event. With the assistance of the **Knights of Columbus, Council 6734**, and other volunteers from the parish, the kids were occupied with water games to help beat the heat. The dunk tank seemed to be the "star of the show" once again. Parishioners lined up to dunk **Father Nick**. Other parishioners also volunteered to be dunked. The fish and barley loaves

surely were multiplied on this day! Food dishes kept on coming throughout the day. Mahalo to all for a fun and Spirit-filled day! (Reported by Normand HJ Robert)

## 5 KULIOUOU

### Holy Trinity Parish

The **Adult Faith Formation** team sponsored an informative presentation on estate planning and preservation of assets entitled "You Can't Take It With You" by **Michelle Scully Hobus** and **Nail Kilcommons** on Sept. 11. Those who attended learned ways to ensure their final wishes were followed and how to avoid costly probate by wise planning. Also discussed, were methods to provide for our families, our charities and our church. (Reported by Charlotte White)

## 6 WAIANAE

### Sacred Heart Parish

The **Knights of Columbus, Council 11485**, and our parish were able to donate school supplies to **Nanakuli,**

## Nanaikapono, Maili, Leihoku, Waianae and Makaha elementary schools.

This has become an annual program for the Knights and this year was very successful. Two bins, full of supplies went to each school, and the staff were very appreciative. Pictured is **Nanakuli Elementary School**. (Reported by Sebastian Lopez)

## 7 EWA BEACH

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

The annual catechists retreat on Sept. 9 was different in some ways. The theme of this year's **Catechetical Sunday**, living as missionary disciples, was discussed in conjunction with the diocesan pastoral plan **Stewards of the Gospel** with its four priorities: (1) Faith formation; (2) Leadership development of clergy and laity; (3) Strengthening of marriage and family life; (4) Youth and young adult ministry. In addition to catechists, some members of various parish ministries also attended the retreat. There were

lectors, sacristans, ushers, Life Teen Youth Ministry, Edge Middle School Youth Ministry, pastoral council, music ministry, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and a few who did not belong to any ministry. Participants were grouped by six with each group tasked with coming up with three to five ways they could practice missionary discipleship. Pictured is First Communion catechist **Joe Rayray** leading his group in the discussion. The second half of the retreat was a presentation on prayer and spirituality by **Father EJ Resinto**, parochial vicar. He spoke about the "Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life" based on a book with the same title by **Father Robert Spitzer**. The five pillars are Eucharist, Spontaneous Prayer, Beatitudes, Partnership with the Holy Spirit, and Contemplative Life. Some highlights from Father EJ's talk: on the Eucharist, we need to be transformed by the Eucharist; on Spontaneous Prayer in times of trial and suffering, to ask for forgiveness, to offer forgiveness and the sigh is also a prayer in terms of thy will be done; on Beatitudes, as the moral compass of our spirituality, the Beatitudes can't simply be a matter of the mind, they must transform our hearts; on the Holy Spirit, we should take the lead from the Holy Spirit. Father EJ also touched on various spiritualities, i.e. Benedictines, Ignatian, Carmelites, and listed forms of prayer to practice: ACTS Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication; Lectio Divina, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and devotion to Mary, devotion to saints, novenas, Liturgy of the Hours and Daily Examen. (Reported by Julia Torres)

## 8 PEARL CITY

### Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

After having journeyed down the road less travelled, **Msgr. Thaddeus Mercado** will amble on another fork of the road, that of retirement, including taking a sentimental journey throughout Europe; becoming a farmer of organic vegetables and fruit trees; planting ornamental plants and flowers; and experimenting with aquaponics. His illustrious career as a priest began in Rome on July 2, 1967, where he was ordained at the Pontificio Collegio Filippino Chapel by **Bishop Francis Reh** from the **Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia**. He had been granted a scholarship to study theology for four years in Rome. Later, in 1981, he earned a doctorate of sacred theology after attending graduate schools in Iowa and Rome. Besides parish priest, Msgr. Thad's past ministries include that of professor, hospital chaplain, spiritual advisor, seminary vice-rector and rector, vicar general, chancellor and parochial vicar. Many young priests from the Philippines, including our pastor **Father Pascual** and our former parochial vicar **Father Rex**, were students of Msgr. Thad. His assignments were in Wisconsin; the Philippines (Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Segovia); Naalehu, Pahala and Pearl City. During his annual vacation this past July, parishioners from Vigan and Magsingal organized a three-day fete for his 50th jubilee anniversary, complete with concerts and many dignitaries, including a car-

dinal, an archbishop and three bishops. Here at our parish an estimated crowd of 350 honored him on his 50 years and retirement and to bid him a fond aloha. The pastoral center resounded with an opening oli, music and dance. People feasted on a lavish buffet and gleefully socialized. Members from the **Filipino Women's League** and the **Serenaders of Our Lady of Manaog** entertained the partygoers with Filipino dances. Other dancers performed a Samoan dance and hulas. Even Father Pascual dedicated a song to the monsignor. Msgr. Thad left Hawaii on Aug. 9 for the Philippines where he will reside in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City and in Magsingal, Ilocos Sur, which is in the southwestern part of the island of Luzon. Pictured is Msgr. Thad dancing with members of our Samoan Community. (Reported by Arlene Aranita; photo by Rodel Eleccion)



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**9 KEKAHA**

**St. Theresa Parish,**

The **Mass of the Holy Spirit** was celebrated Aug. 21 where faculty and staff of both **St. Catherine School**, Kapaa, and **St. Theresa School** were prayed over. The presider was **Father Emerson "Boyet" Delos Reyes** of our parish. Con-celebrating were **Father Anthony Rapozo**, pastor of St. Catherine; **Father Arlan Intal**, pastor of **St. Raphael Parish**, Koloa; **Father Tony Abuan**, pastor of **Holy Cross Parish**, Kalaheo; **Father Edison Pamintuan**, pastor of **Immaculate Conception Parish**, Lihue; and **Father Norlito Concepcion**, assistant priest at St. Catherine. We ask the Holy Spirit to continue to bless both schools with a very successful school year! (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte; photo contributed by Father Boyet)



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**10 KALIHI**

**St. John the Baptist Parish**

Pictured is **Bishop Larry Silva** with **Father Moses Akebule**, **Father Jesus Navarrete** and **Deacon Modesto Cordero** on the bishop's visit to the **Hispanic community** at our parish Aug. 20. The main purpose of his visit was to talk about the renovation of the **Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace** and to invite the Hispanic community to pledge and support this big project. He also took the opportunity to introduce to the Hispanic community **Father Moses** as the new administrator and **Father Navarrete** as a resident priest of St. John's. (Reported by Bertha Guerrero)



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**XVI.** A nine-day novena will begin on Sept. 16, before the 8 a.m. Mass in the chapel leading into the fiesta. (Reported by Ginny Jordan)

Caren Sue Argenzia)

**HONOLULU**

**Sts. Peter and Paul Parish**

The recently **confirmed youth** have been meeting twice a month to build and share their faith with each other. They have also been carefully planning their first service project together, preparing gifts for children who are ill. The monetary donation that was collected at their Confirmation Mass will be used to purchase gifts that they decided to donate to children staying at **Kapiolani Medical Center**. Some of the gifts include totes, prayer cards, games, and arts and crafts for all ages. The youth ministry hopes that these donations will bring smiles to the brave young patients in the hospital. (From the parish bulletin)

**MAKAKILO**

**St. Jude Parish**

It was a busy week for **religious education** as we welcomed back 300-plus students from grades PK-1st and students preparing for the original order of the **Sacraments of Initiation**. St. Jude is among the first group in our diocese to revert back to the original order of sacraments. (Reported by

**11 WAILUKU**

**St. Anthony of Padua Parish**

Youth enjoyed the **"Welcome Back Youth Fellowship"** on Aug. 27 held at our parish. We would like to say "thank you" to the **Youth Core Team Members** and the **Saint Anthony Life Team** members. (Reported by Chiree Souza)

**12 MILILANI**

**St. John Apostle and Evangelist Parish**

**Bishop Larry Silva** presided at the 5 p.m. vigil Mass and **marriage convalidation** at our parish on Aug. 19. Concelebrated by **Father Joseph Ayinpuusa**, parochial vicar, and **Father Michael Suh Niba**, a visiting priest from the **Archdiocese of Bamenda** and assisted by **Deacon Modesto Cordero** and **Deacon Romeo Ganibe**. Pictured front, from left, **Nam and Thien Nguyen, George and Rosemary DeCosta, Shirley and Rudy Romero Jr., Maricar and James Pinaula, Kari and Tylor Mai**. Top row, **Deacon Modesto Cordero, Father Michael Suh Niba, Bishop Silva, Deacon Romeo Ganibe**. Not pictured: **Father Joseph Ayinpuusa**. (Reported by Jolly Guerrero-Tano)

**WAIALUA**

**St. Michael Parish**

Our **Health and Wellness Fair**, Sept. 17 in St. Damien Hall, was a free community event offering Meals on Wheels, a tai chi exhibition, flu vaccinations, blood pressure checks, and free eye screening with near and far vision screening for keikis and retinal screening to adults. There were free reading glasses to adults and free sunglasses for keiki! The event was sponsored by **St. Michael Health Ministry**. (From the parish bulletin)

**13 SALT LAKE**

**St. Philomena Parish**

Our parish culminated its **75th anniversary** event with a nine-day novena followed by a potluck on Aug. 12. The 75th anniversary celebration started with Mass celebrated by five priests led by **Father Rico Bernadez**. After Mass, the parishioners joined friends gathered together under the tent for fellowship. They were entertained by talented parishioners, plus **Frank De Lima**, and a slideshow of the history of the parish; served delicious food; and won a lot of door prizes. Mahalo for the many volunteers and donors who unconditionally shared their time, talent and treasure for the success of this event ... On Sept. 1, the parish **Kokua**

**Ministry** hosted the **parish kupuna** who are 80 years and older at the annual **super seniors luncheon**, honoring those born in 1937 or earlier. The day began with a liturgical service during which Father Rico read some Old and New Testament passages, spoke a few words about involvement in parish life and thanked the seniors for the many valued contributions they have made to our community over the years, ending with a brief prayer and blessing. The 39 honorees lingered for a few minutes for a group picture, then headed outside for lunch prepared by the **Kokua Ministry** and other members of the parish, many of whom are members of the 80-plus club or are only a year or two away. With nearly 40 people being honored, it's not unexpected that one of them would be celebrating a birthday on that very day, but it's especially fitting that the birthday boy, former usher of many years **George Ah Sing** turned 90 on Sept. 1! Congratulations George, and many more to come! Also noteworthy is that the group included at least five first timers. Those born in 1937 and are or will be 80 years old this year include **William Chang, Harold Chun, Kathleen Chun, Jean Ganiko and Bertha Kauai**. Each year, the number attending this celebration continues to grow as we are not only more long-lived, but continue to practice our faith in our later years. (Reported by Evelyn Rojo and Michael Ho)

**14 KOLOA**

**St. Raphael Parish**

On Sept. 10, **La Salette Father Arlan Intal** had the honor of installing **altar servers** at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Without hesitation, these altar server stewards serve during Masses. Top row: Father Arlan. Center row: **Benymor Tapucol Jr., Andrew Cezar, Jady Nakaahiki, Denzel Magallanes**. Bottom row: **Edyn Nakaahiki, Eryn Nakaahiki, Kamryn Yates, Cassie Valencia, Ciara Valencia Tyra Valencia, Tyler Valencia, Aiden Gadingan, Jessica Cezar, Nikki Tapucol and Emily Melchor**. Missing: **Anjelique Cauzaldo, Jason Felipe and the three Bukoski sisters** who serve at the 7 a.m. Mass. We are certainly very proud of these young stewards who sacrifice their time to serve the Lord! (Reported by Lillian Vierra)

**15 HAIKU**

**St. Rita Parish**

On Sept. 10 the **religious education children** celebrated the birthday of our **Blessed Virgin Mary**. Before Mass, our pastor **Father Chacko Muthoottil** blessed all the servers and children. The children proceeded in the Mass and put their gifts of flowers in vases in front of the Blessed Mary's statue. After Mass the children and guests continued the celebration with a cake, and singing "Happy Birthday" to our Holy Mother. The religious education director **Christine Matheis** spent part of the morning teaching the children about the rosary and recited one decade with them. It was a beautiful morning in honor of Blessed Virgin Mary's birthday. (Reported by Esther Yap)

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