

ANNUNCIATION & CHURCH ASCENSION MISSION



PARISH PICNICS TO BRING US TOGETHER

If one parish picnic is a good idea, let's have two! Our new parish Picnic Ministry is taking the lead with both. Planning meetings are already underway, with a goal of fostering a sense of community and hospitality throughout our parish family.

"With our mission church in Puako and our main church in Waimea, it's not very often we get to do events together," says Larry Denis of our Stewardship Committee. "We hope the picnics will build fellowship between the two churches, since we are one parish. We wanted to include parishioners and let them take the lead to plan it and make it happen."

Our first picnic will be held on June 4 beginning at 11:30 a.m.

"We're having the June picnic at 'Catholic Beach,' at the church in Puako," he says. "It will be in the

gazebo outside the church after Mass. There will be a Family Unity Mass at 10:00 a.m. in Puako with children attending from both churches' Religious Education programs. This picnic is for all in the parish and it's to wrap up the school year and religious education. This is designed to bring the two churches together to enjoy fellowship and food. If they wish, they can go to the nearby beaches, and there will be games for the youngsters."

The second picnic is set for 11:30 a.m. Aug. 6 at Hapuna Beach Park.

"The August picnic will kick off next year's religious education program, and all parishioners are invited," Larry says. "Swimming will be the main activity planned during the Aug. 6 picnic."

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– Larry Denis,
Stewardship Committee

THE EUCHARIST AND STEWARDSHIP

as a Way of Life

More than 20 years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. This document was an invitation to follow Christ Who gave of Himself for us. Each of us is called to serve our neighbors and to be stewards of God's creation and of all that has been entrusted to us. However, to truly understand stewardship, we must look to the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the total gift of our loving Savior to us. Stewardship is our response to that gift.

Even the word "Eucharist" implies stewardship. The word "Eucharist" finds its roots in the Latin word *eucharistia*, which in turn came from the Greek word *eukaristos*, which meant, quite simply, "gratitude" or "thanksgiving." How fitting that we, who are called to be a stewardship people, celebrate at the focal point of every Mass an act of thanksgiving and gratitude — namely, the reception of Jesus' gift to us — the Eucharist.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the bishops speak of the Eucharist in this way: "The Eucharist is the great sign and agent of this expansive communion of charity... we enjoy a unique union with Christ and, in Him, with one another. Here His love — indeed, His very Self — flows into us as disciples and, through us and our practice of stewardship to the entire human race."

When we receive Christ's Body in the Holy Eucharist, we hear the minister say, "The Body of Christ." To this, we respond, "Amen" — which means in Hebrew, "Yes; it is so." This is the essence of stewardship. We should enter the Church for

Mass out of "gratitude." We recognize the presence of the Lord in Holy Communion, and then we truly receive the Lord. What is left for us to do is the fulfillment of stewardship — that is, sharing what we have received in love of God and neighbor. Our entire experience speaks to stewardship — we are grateful; we recognize the real presence of the Lord; we receive the Lord; and then we share what we have received.

Christ's gift to us through the Eucharist is an invitation to us. We are called to give beyond what is convenient or what may be comfortable. We are called to forgive even when forgiveness may not be deserved; we are called to love even when that love is not returned. We are called to love as God loves us.

The Eucharist is stewardship celebrated. The Mass is more than a ritual. It is an actual encounter with God, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We need to respond to the Eucharist with our complete selves. What we experience in the Eucharist should, in turn, translate into our daily lives. We are committed to the Church, which is Christ's body. We show our love for His body by acts of charity and generosity. We spend time in prayer, expressing our gratitude and our love.

God's greatest gift to us is Christ's great love for us — this was shown when He was crucified on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to give us eternal life. God's love for us is without limit, and He offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Stewardship is how we respond to that gift.

"The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' 'The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and the works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church.'"

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324

A Letter from Our Pastor

WE ARE ALL PART OF THE MINISTRY OF

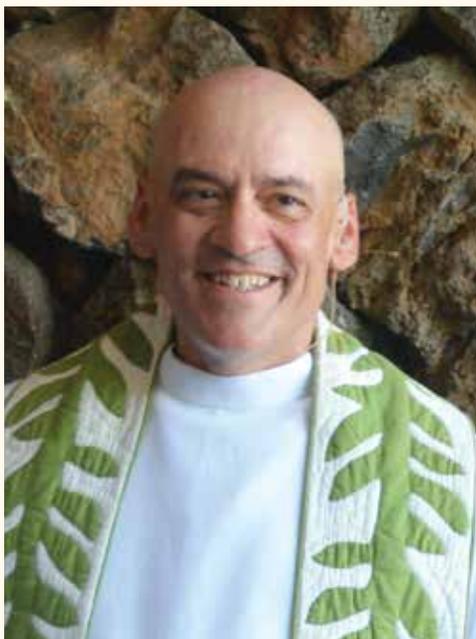
Hospitality

Dear Parishioners,

This is a time of many celebrations in the Church. The list is almost endless at this time of year – First Communion, Confirmations, graduations, and weddings. There are so many events that bring people who are not from the parish, or even members of the Church, into our parish.

You may recall that we speak of the Four Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. I want to particularly speak of that pillar of Hospitality this month. It is important every day of every year and in everything we do as a parish community. However, at this time of year, when there may be strangers and newcomers in our midst, it becomes even more important.

Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. In Matthew 25:35, the Lord speaks to us in terms of expectations when He says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” He makes it clear to us that whenever we welcome any of His brothers and sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. Sometimes, we may think that this concept of



hospitality is the responsibility of a committee, ministry or group of people assigned that task – but the truth is that we are all part of the parish hospitality effort.

If we are going to be a stewardship parish, and if each of us is going to be a good steward, we need to be aware that we need to seek and find Christ in everyone around us, everyone we meet, and certainly everyone who enters our church or other parish facilities.

Hospitality is a parish priority that each of us must take to heart. It is not so challenging to greet someone, smile at them and welcome them – yet, it may require a little extra effort on our part. That means we must have an awareness of those near us, of those who may appear to be alone or new. We may not always think of Christ in this way, but if we carefully listen to Holy Scripture, we must realize that He was a caring, welcoming and friendly person. If we are to be His disciples, we need to be the same.

As stated, Jesus assures us that when we welcome others, we are welcoming Him, as well. St. Paul once said that people who are hospitable sometimes entertain angels. For us, parish hospitality is not an option. It is our way to model the Kingdom of God right here and right now.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen

Reverend Stephen Macedo
Pastor

FINDING FAITH AND A SECOND FAMILY:

Looking back, most of us can think of someone who played an important role, influencing our faith and helping us learn about what it means to be Catholic. For some, however, it's not just one person – rather, it's a group that really impacts our journey with God. For Jackson Cootey, recent recipient of our Island Treasures Award, that group was Youth Group.

Jackson, who is now 17 and a senior in high school, received the Sacrament of Confirmation when he was in 10th grade. From there, his faith really started changing.

“When I was younger, I didn't really understand – I went to church and I tried to pay attention, but I never really got the hang of it,” says Jackson, who began attending Mass and religious education regularly when he was in seventh grade. “But when I got confirmed and started going to Youth Group, we started praying together, coming up with ideas on how to help our community, and sharing faith together as a Youth Group. It really brought me closer to God.”

For Jackson, having peers and adult mentors who took the time to show him how to practice his faith in daily life made all the difference.

“Learning about my faith was easier when I started hearing it from my Youth Group leader and other Youth Group members,” Jackson says. “They helped me to see it from my perspective as a teenager and how it relates to life.”

Through Youth Group, Jackson also discovered his love of serving others. From visiting nursing homes and helping people who are homeless, to serving as an usher at Mass, Jackson is grateful for opportunities to give back to the community in which he was raised.



Jackson Cootey is an active member of our parish Youth Group and recent recipient of the Island Treasures Award

“By making this a priority in my life, not only do I feel like I have a better relationship with God, but I also feel I have a better relationship with people in my community,” Jackson says.

Being part of the Youth Group also gave Jackson opportunities to see the bigger picture of the Body of Christ, through attending youth ministry events around the diocese.

“It gave me a better idea of how many people share the same faith as I do,” Jackson says. “It's kind of one big family – there is more than just our

“When I first started coming to church, I was kind of confused about the concept of God. Now, I see Him more as a friend. I can talk to Him about anything – how my day went, problems I'm having with my friends, asking advice with school, my life, relationships, all that stuff. That's how I talk to Him.” – Jackson Cootey

MEET JACKSON COOTEY

parish. Anywhere I go in the world, I could find my faith and practice it.”

This sense of the universality of the Church will be especially valuable as Jackson – who runs track and cross-country, and swims – hopes to attend Warner Pacific College in Portland, Ore., this fall. He plans to study business administration and accounting, with ambitions to eventually take over his father’s electric company, Kamuela Electric. Although his top choice of colleges is a Protestant school, he plans to find ways to continue strengthening his Catholic faith while away from his parish family.

His prayer life, which he developed during his time in Youth Group, will also help him to stay close to God.

“When I first started coming to church, I was kind of confused about the concept of God,” Jackson says. “Now, I see Him more as a friend. I can talk to Him about anything – how my day went, problems I’m having with my friends, asking advice with school, my life, relationships, all that stuff.

That’s how I talk to Him.”

Jackson encourages other young people who are going through Confirmation to become involved in our youth group.

“Confirmation is just the beginning,” Jackson says. “Once I got confirmed, I started seeing things from God’s perspective and started believing more in God and His path for me. The Youth Group is always there to support you. They’ve become so much more than just my Youth Group – they’ve definitely become family.”

Jackson, we look forward to watching as God’s plans for you unfold. Be assured of the continued prayers and support of your parish family!

If you have any questions about Youth Group for High School students, please email annunciationyg96743@gmail.com or call Richard Kaniho at 808-217-2708, or Liz Chock at 808-987-5630. Or, visit our website at bit.ly/aygwebsite

Parish Picnic Ministry to Plan Events continued from front cover

The food at both picnics will follow the parish custom of the parish providing hot dogs and hamburgers.

“Parishioners will be asked to bring salads and desserts,” Larry says. “And we usually have a barbecue.”

With two picnics coming up, the new Picnic Ministry is taking over the arrangements that traditionally have been handled by the Religious Education Ministry.

“Some parishioners had expressed an interest in this during the stewardship renewal, so we’ll be asking them to help with set up, cooking, and cleaning at the end,” Larry says. “We were looking to create a



new ministry, and the parish is growing, stewardship is alive and well, so we wanted to increase the participation around the parish picnics. We’re trying to build a bridge between the two churches, since most of the activities have been up in Waimea.”

If you are interested in joining the Parish Picnic Ministry, please contact our new leader, Maile Lincoln at 808-895-3168, or email her at mc2000X3@yahoo.com.

ST. ISIDORE'S SIMPLE STEWARDSHIP

When we consider the lives of the saints, the first that usually come to mind are more than likely classed into four categories – martyrs, priests, religious, and great miracle workers. St. Isidore was none of these, and yet he is revered in Spain as one of “the five saints,” which include St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Philip Neri, all of whom were canonized with him in the same year. His Feast Day is May 15.

The life of St. Isidore is a great testimony to how, with God’s grace, we can take the occurrences of a simple, mundane, and even sometimes difficult life and use them as opportunities for sanctification.

Isidore was born near Madrid, around the year 1070, into a peasant family. While still a young boy, he began working as a day laborer on the farm of Juan de Vergas, a wealthy landowner, just outside of Madrid.

Despite the hard work on Vergas’ farm, where Isidore spent the rest of his life in service, he did not complain and always tried his hardest to meet the tasks requested of him. Above all things, he upheld his relationship with Jesus. As he walked behind his plough, he would talk to God, offering up his work as a prayer. He rose up extra early each day before work to attend daily Mass. He would even spend his vacations touring the different churches of Madrid and the surrounding areas.

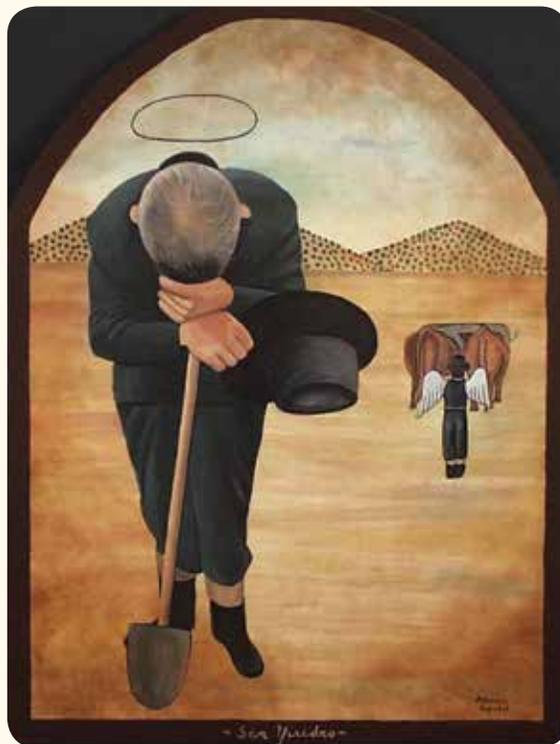
As hardworking as Isidore was, his fellow workers complained to Vergas that the pious laborer always arrived late for work because he attended Mass every day. Isidore could not deny the accusation, but assured his employer that he always made a special effort to compensate for the extra minutes he spent in prayer. One day, Vergas

decided to see for himself whether Isidore was really slacking in his work. Hiding in the bushes, he watched as Isidore came out of church, went directly to the fields, and began his plowing. To Vergas’ astonishment, he saw a “man” with another plow beside Isidore, driving a team of white oxen. When he ran toward the mysterious team, it disappeared and Isidore only looked puzzled when Vergas asked him about it. “Sir, I work alone and know of none save God to whom I look for strength,” Isidore said. No doubt, God had sent His angels to help ensure that Isidore’s work would not suffer because of his placing the spiritual above the temporal.

While working for Vergas, Isidore fell in love with and married a young woman, Maria Torribia, who shared his devotion and faith. They had one child, a son, who died while still a boy. A model of sanctity herself, Maria – also a canonized saint – served her husband faithfully all her life. Together, Isidore and Maria would look for ways to serve the poor, even though they had very little themselves.

One story says that when Isidore brought a number of hungry people home with him one day, Maria realized as she scraped the bottom of the pot that there was no more stew. Isidore asked her to check one more time, and she was able to spoon out enough to feed everyone. They could not refuse an act of kindness to anyone.

At times, we might be tempted to think that we do not have the talents or the assets to be good stewards. But St. Isidore shows us by his simple, humble example that we can live out the call to discipleship in the smallest actions of charity and piety – that we only need do as much as we can, and trust that God will do the rest.



NO GIFT TOO SMALL FOR PARISH HALL CLEANERS

No matter how small you may think your gift is, God wants it. This is what Trish Tripp wants you to know about stewardship at our parish.

“One day, I heard they were asking for hall cleaners and they didn’t have anyone,” she says. “They had people to clean the church, but no one to clean the hall. Father was talking about stewardship and how you can get involved. I’m a single mom and we didn’t have much money to give, but I thought what I can give of is my time.”

And that’s how Trish became the coordinator of the Parish Hall Cleaners – “by default,” she laughs. A few times a month, she and a handful of other volunteers take turns scrubbing the social hall and making it shine for the groups and ministries who use it.

Trish often works with fellow parishioner Bea Wedemeyer, and she says the fellowship the task offers has been rewarding.

“I like being able to work with someone else,” Trish says. “It makes it go faster and easier. We were just looking for a way to contribute to church and it was just something I was able to do.”

In the midst of dusting, sweeping and straightening up, Trish says the ministry allows volunteers to embrace spending time within God’s House.

“I find myself talking to the Lord,” she says. “I can pray. I say the Rosary. It’s a quiet time. It’s a good time to serve and spend time with Him. It makes you feel good because you’re serving the Lord, and that always helps you to strengthen your faith.”

As mom to Hunter, 18, and Jaydon, 14, Trish says getting involved in the parish has become a family affair. Trish recalls that when she initially



(From left) Bea Wedemeyer and Trish Tripp give back to our parish community by making sure the parish hall stays nice and tidy for their fellow parishioners. “I would like to teach my children that we can glorify the Lord in all we do, no matter how big or small our actions are,” Trish says of her involvement with the Parish Hall Cleaners.

became involved at the parish as a lector, she challenged her kids to choose a ministry in

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“It doesn’t matter how small your gift is, you can contribute. Even if it’s just setting up something. I thought it was a great way to get involved. When you get involved, you meet people, you get closer to them. There’s always something you can contribute.” – Trish Tripp

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NO GIFT TOO SMALL FOR PARISH HALL CLEANERS *continued from page 7*

which they could be involved, as well. For both Hunter and Jaydon, that has meant becoming altar servers, and in Hunter's case, becoming involved with children's ministry.

"I don't think it matters what people do," Trish says about stewardship. "A lot of people think 'Oh, I can't do anything.' It doesn't matter how small your gift is, you can contribute. Even if it's just setting up something. I thought it was a great way to get involved. When you get involved, you meet people, you get closer to them. There's always something you can contribute."

If you would like more information on the Parish Hall Cleaners and how you can contribute, please contact Trish Tripp at 808-854-5096.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. (Waimea) | **Sunday:** 8 a.m. (Waimea) & 10 a.m. (Puako) | **Confession:** Saturday 4 p.m. (Waimea)