

ANNUNCIATION & CHURCH ASCENSION MISSION



BUILDING A BETTER WORLD – ONE HOUSE AT A TIME

It's no secret that the cost of living is high here on the Island. In recent years, there has been a growing housing crisis, as more and more parents are forced to work multiple low-paying jobs in order to pay rent for substandard housing. Meanwhile, their children are often left alone, doing homework by flashlight and living in deplorable conditions.

Enter Habitat for Humanity of West Hawaii, an organization working hard to eliminate this problem by providing affordable housing for local families and individuals in need.

“Because the cost of living is so high here, we are able to make a pretty dramatic difference,” says Patrick Hurney, Executive Director. “Families that are used to paying rent of \$2,000 or more a month now have a mortgage note of \$500. That allows a family to have disposable income to provide for activities for their children and to have reliable transportation. Most importantly of all, it allows them to spend time with their children because they no longer have to work two to three jobs just to make ends meet.”

Put simply, Habitat for Humanity's mission is to provide ownership opportunities for families with limited

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Volunteers, explains Executive Director Patrick Hurney, are truly the secret to Habitat for Humanity's worldwide success.

“Swinging a hammer will not be the only way to help out with the Blitz Build. We are going to need so many people that will be willing to pick up and serve the food, set up and clean up the work sites, help us sign in volunteers – it’s going to take everyone to make it a success.” – Patrick Hurney

STEWARDSHIP: *The Four Pillars*

You've heard about the three Ts of stewardship, but what about the four Ps?

The three Ts – Time, Talent, and Treasure – describe the personal gifts we offer to the Church. The four Ps are the Four Pillars of Parish Stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish – Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. Let's take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

Hospitality *Christian Kindness*

"When I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). The Gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Christ Himself. That is why the first mark of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others.

Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don't know one another. To create a sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let's try harder than ever to be a welcoming community.

Prayer *Heart-to-Heart with God*

"Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work," a seminary professor once taught. In other words, don't get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and family prayer. The two

biggest obstacles to prayer are lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And we have to learn how to pray from other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

Formation *Continuous Conversion*

Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply.

Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or "toy" that we wanted so badly, it doesn't really satisfy us. On the other hand, we don't tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing, but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

Service *Love in Action*

"Amen I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). This Scripture was one of St. Teresa of Calcutta's favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew she was ministering to Christ. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "To be a saint is not the privilege of a few, but the duty of everyone."

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you'll find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?

A Letter from Our Pastor

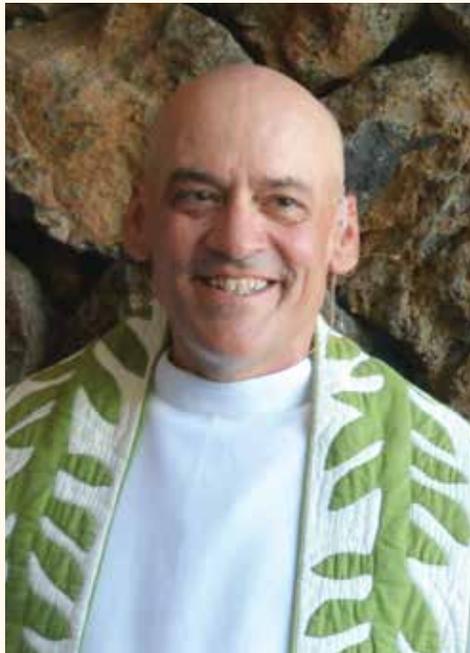
STEWARDSHIP: *“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made; Let Us Rejoice in It and Be Glad”*

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes, we may spend time looking at, analyzing, and speaking about the meaning of various passages and readings from Holy Scripture. Of course, we need to do that – it is important to our spiritual well-being, and to have a complete understanding of the messages revealed to us in the Word of God. As you are aware, most weeks we have four readings as part of our Liturgy of the Word – a First Reading, then a Responsorial Psalm, a Second Reading, and the Holy Gospel.

The one reading which sometimes is ignored is that Psalm. Yet, there are truths and wisdom in the Psalms that are worthy of our comments and our recognition. Psalm 24 (a song of David) strikes me in particular as one rich in meaning for us, especially from the perspective of stewardship. It opens, “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.” For me, that says everything we believe and provides us with all the motivation we need to pursue stewardship as a way of life.

Let us consider how profound that statement – “The earth is the Lord’s and all it holds” – really is. If we do embrace stewardship as



a way of life, we admit and accept that everything comes from God and everything is God’s. Stewardship is not complicated, although we try to make everything complex and complicated, it seems. It is, as stated, merely the realization that our very existence, our lives, our goods all come from and in finality belong to God. We are the stewards of all of this. If we do accept that and try to live that way, we then tend to administer well God’s gifts on behalf of God. That is all stewardship is.

At the heart of all of this is our relationship with the Lord. We can also say that

stewardship is all about getting that relationship right. Jesus certainly makes reference to stewards and stewardship in the Gospels. The Gospels were all written in Greek, and the English words for “steward” and “stewardship” are translations from a Greek word that means “to administer what belongs to someone else.”

That is what we do in this life. We receive gifts – we are granted the stewardship of time, talent and treasure from God. But all of this and all we may be are only gifts. Our use of them to serve one another and all those around us in our community, our parish and the Church Universal is the measure of our stewardship.

In the northern hemisphere, autumn begins on Friday, Sept. 22. This time of year in the Church is when everything seems to begin or resume. There is another wonderful Psalm that states, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad” (Psalm 118:24). Let us do that together, and let us be good stewards together.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen

Reverend Stephen Macedo
Pastor

A Look Back on Summer

The summer season was a busy and exciting time for our Annunciation Parish Picnic, and the younger members of our faith family participated



Activities at Annunciation

Annunciation community! We gathered for food, fun and fellowship at our Youth Retreat in the Youth Retreat. We thank all those who took part in these events!



A REPORT ON OUR PARISH FINANCES

	July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	
Income		
Saturday, 5:00pm Mass	\$	81,521.28
Sunday, 8:00am Mass	\$	93,444.03
Sunday, 10:00am Mass	\$	99,123.44
Online Giving:		
Sunday Offering	\$	35,217.00
Faith Formation, Stewardship & Evangelization	\$	5,844.20
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$	520.00
Outreach (Food Pantry)	\$	4,445.00
Outreach (Hunger Free Keiki)		
Building Maintenance Offerings	\$	24,092.50
Special Collections	\$	5,243.00
Holy Days	\$	30,110.68
Second Collections (In and out)	\$	23,375.26
Food Pantry Donations	\$	15,108.49
Food Pantry Grants	\$	43,806.50
Grants	\$	108,200.00
Other Gifts & Bequests	\$	8,147.87
Candle Offerings	\$	10,212.26
Youth Ministry Fundraising	\$	5,524.00
Interest Income	\$	34,348.81
Other Income	\$	9,042.00
Total Income	\$	613,951.06
Expenses		
Priest Expenses (Salary, medical, retirement, rectory food)	\$	45,788.90
Lay Expenses (Wages, Medical, EE taxes & Insurance)	\$	86,482.20
Office Expenses (Parish & RE Offices)	\$	6,507.67
Insurance	\$	17,793.00
Automobile Expenses	\$	4,823.09
Puako Lease	\$	15,784.16
Waimea repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$	19,745.70
Puako repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$	21,806.51
Cemetery Maintenance	\$	-
Waimea Utilities	\$	14,549.75
Puako Utilities	\$	5,896.87
Diocese Assessment	\$	37,632.00
Professional Services	\$	5,832.38
Stewardship Expenses	\$	37,000.06
Liturgy Expenses	\$	6,499.52
Candle Expenses (not altar)	\$	7,861.11
Religious Education Textbooks	\$	4,519.75
Education & Faith Formation (Parish Retreat, L.A. Congress, Stewardship Conference)	\$	12,249.69
Appreciation Expenses	\$	5,062.42
Evangelization (Christmas & Easter books, Newsletter printing & Mailing expenses, Catholic Herald)	\$	15,464.43
Food Pantry Expenses	\$	58,786.18
Hunger Free Keiki & Kupuna Expenses	\$	4,021.95
Parish Tithing (Donations to other groups, Medical Subsidy to Ka'u Pastor)	\$	15,622.38
Fundraising Expenses	\$	3,102.76
Other Expenses (Committee food, housekeeping supplies, tools, subscriptions, travel, taxes)	\$	27,571.41
Total Expenses	\$	480,403.89
Income over Expenses	\$	133,547.17
Savings with Diocese	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2017
Savings Account	\$ 945,508.56	\$ 948,137.43
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 453,140.16	\$ 541,268.09
Building Fund Land Acquisition	\$ 281,856.27	\$ 287,537.46
Total Savings	\$ 1,680,504.99	\$ 1,776,942.98
Upcoming Repairs and maintenance projects:		
Replace carpeting in Puako and Waimea Church		
Replace temporary Baptismal Font in Waimea		
Replace windows and new siding on old Church		



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A GOOD AND FAITH-FILLED TIME HAD BY ALL!

The children of Annunciation Parish and Ascension Mission enjoyed a great week of Vacation Bible School from June 5-9! This inaugural year of VBS will hopefully become a beloved tradition for our parish. This year's theme was "Message Received - Hearing God's Call," and through various activities throughout the week, kids in kindergarten through fifth grade were able to learn about their faith and grow closer to God.

"It was great to meet the children outside of church in a relaxed setting, and it was fun to see their own personalities come out during VBS," says parishioner and VBS volunteer Emily Hoover. "It was also fun to see them interact with each other."

The children arrived at 9 a.m. each day, and began the day with prayer. Each day of VBS included activities that tied in to the overall theme, with specific messages for each day.

"We taught them the Holy Rosary, played games, and did crafts based on the day's theme," Emily says. "We also did a daily drama which reinforced the message of the day. It was not only fun, but also another way to learn about God. The message was simplified and delivered in a more relaxed and exciting environment."

At the end of the session at noon, the children came together in prayer once more before heading home.

Over the course of the week, the children weren't the only



ones who learned – the VBS volunteers were also able to grow in faith and virtue.

"We learned to be flexible and open," Emily says. "Jesus was flexible and open to what others had to say, which in turn influenced Him to become the

Man He was. This message is constantly taught in the Bible, and should be lived by all.

"We all learned something new from the teachings of the day, and also from the children's take on the messages of the day," she adds.

"It was great to meet the children outside of church in a relaxed setting, and it was fun to see their own personalities come out during VBS. It was also fun to see them interact with each other."
 – Emily Hoover, parishioner and VBS volunteer

If you would like more information about VBS, or to get involved for next year, please contact Jane Aganus at tutubj@yahoo.com.

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Habitat for Humanity continued from front cover

income, lifting them out of poverty. To accomplish this, it relies on an army of benefactors and volunteers. Patrick explains that an estimate of 65 percent of each new home is built exclusively through volunteer labor, reducing building costs to roughly 45 percent. This in turn allows Habitat for Humanity to sell homes to families at a fraction of what it would normally cost with a 30-year, no-interest mortgage.

“Volunteers are really the key to Habitat’s success around the globe,” Patrick says. “They make a huge difference in our ability to provide affordable housing.”

This is especially true in Habitat for Humanity’s upcoming project, the Blitz Build, taking place from Sept. 13-23. During this time, Habitat West Hawaii – along with 10 local

families, thousands of volunteers, and hundreds of local businesses – will be building 10 homes in 10 days. This is Habitat West Hawaii’s largest project to date and the organization is in need of volunteers to help with construction, registration, hospitality, set-up, clean-up, and transportation each day.

“Swinging a hammer will not be the only way to help out with the Blitz Build,” Patrick says. “We are going to need so many people that will be willing to pick up and serve the food, set up and clean up the work sites, help us sign in volunteers – it’s going to take everyone to make it a success.”

In this way, each Habitat for Humanity volunteer helps change the life of a person in need, impacting generations to come.

We invite all parishioners to join Annunciation’s Habitat Build Group by assisting with the 2017 Blitz Build in whatever ways they can. Parishioners can learn more or sign up to volunteer at www.habitatwesthawaii.org/sign-up or contact Community Relations Coordinator Amanda MacIntosh for more information at amanda@habitatwesthawaii.org.

MASS SCHEDULE

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