

# ANNUNCIATION & CHURCH ASCENSION MISSION



## JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING PARISH STEWARDSHIP RETREAT FOR A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCERN YOUR GIFTS

A wonderful opportunity to discern how God is calling you to use your gifts is planned for Friday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 17 during our Parish Stewardship Retreat, “Called to Build”. All are welcome!

Our retreat leader is Fr. Greg Paffel, of the Diocese of St. Cloud in Minnesota, and he will share his gifts as part of his life goals to lead people into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as help them become more involved in parish life.

The retreat will be made up of four sessions, and will open at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, with dinner at the Parish Hall, followed by an overview of the retreat.

Session One, “A Christian Disciple, My Basic Identity,” will follow at 7 p.m. at Annunciation, with night prayer and dismissal at 8:30 p.m. The retreat will resume at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 with Mass, followed by continental breakfast.

Session Two, “The Church of



*Retreat leader Fr. Greg Paffel*

the Living God” will begin at 9 a.m., followed by Session Three, “Constructing the Pillars of Parish Life,” at 10:30 a.m. Session Four, “Completing the Pillars of Parish Life,” will begin at 12:30 p.m. after lunch at noon. The retreat

will conclude at 2 p.m. with Commissioning and closing.

Meals are included and there is no cost to attend.

Fr. Greg currently is pastor of three Catholic parishes in Sauk Centre, Minn. He is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, and twice served with the National Evangelization Team. He has also assisted with several Steubenville Youth Conferences.

One considering attending the retreat needs to only heed the advice of Tim Esaki, an attendee of last year’s retreat.

“Let’s just say I would have definitely given last year’s retreat five stars on Yelp and TripAdvisor!” he says. “This was the first retreat I ever attended. I’m not sure what made me go, but I’m really glad that I did.”

Tim noted that his favorite part about attending the retreat — “aside, obviously, from the great food” — was that it gave him an opportunity to share a

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## *Stewardship* **BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN**

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He is asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God

can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.



2018  
New Year Resolutions

*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## A NEW YEAR:

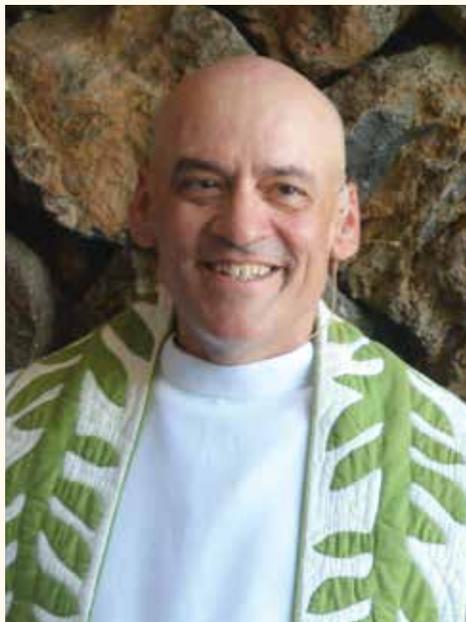
### *New Challenges, New Opportunities*

Dear Parishioners,

It is a new year, and it is my prayer for all of you – and for me, as well – that we can take new steps on our faith journeys, and seek new ways to live out discipleship and stewardship.

Pope Francis once commented on his perspective of our modern approach to life. He said, “Certainly, possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want more, never satisfied. I have learned that the most important thing is to put on Christ in your life, place your trust in Him, and you will never be disappointed.”

The pope has been called “the world’s parish priest.” As we pray for one another in this New Year, may we all ask the Lord to help us appreciate Pope Francis’ approach to life, his simple way of seeing things, and his very basic way of appreciating things. I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship to Christ, and for that matter to one another.



If we really wish to change our lives and the lives of others, there are two easy ways to do it. We are blessed with many opportunities in this parish to pray, but as much as it is important for us to take advantage of those, we also need to develop a strong personal prayer life. Recall the young Samuel, who was not quite sure what to do with his life, or what direction to go. When he finally settled on that one important prayer, “Speak, Lord, for I am

listening,” Samuel gave us the hint as to what we need to do. Prayer is a two-way street, and part of that is taking the time to listen to God.

The second important way is to exude joy. Christ certainly called us to do that. Pope Francis has had much to say about joy, as well. The Holy Father says, “Joy cannot be held at heel; it must be let go. Joy is a pilgrim virtue. It is a gift that walks – walks on the path of life, that walks with Jesus... proclaiming joy, lengthens and widens that path.” We must seek that joy and then we need to share it. That is truly our call. Joy translates quite easily into “love your neighbor.”

Yes, there may be challenges ahead in 2018, but we must focus on the opportunities, and then exert the effort to benefit from those opportunities. Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Stephen*

Reverend Stephen Macedo  
Pastor

# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARADE UNIT

Jane Aganus moved to Waimea in 2009. She loved the community and she instantly became involved in Annunciation Church. Her first year here, she attended the annual Waimea Christmas Parade. She was struck by a couple of things.

“I was watching the Christmas Parade, which was wonderful in many ways, but I suddenly realized that something was missing,” she says. “This parade was to celebrate Christmas, but Christ was missing completely. How could Jesus and our Catholic community not be a part of this? I vowed to do something about that.”

As a result, Jane became the coordinator of Annunciation’s and Ascension’s participation and presence in the annual Christmas Parade. From the very beginning, it was a success.

“As we all know *Jesus is the reason for the season*, and now that is evident, not only because that is the emphasis of what we do in the parade, but several other Christian churches now participate as well,” Jane says.

The parish effort became such a big production that in 2011, Jane recruited Dian Burroughs to assist her.

“Like Jane, I get a great sense of accomplishment because of my involvement in this,” Dian says. “We take great care to include both of our parish churches in every aspect of this. Both churches understand that we are one parish and the cooperation is wonderful. We have so much fun doing this. The children and young people loved doing this.”



# ES OUR PARISH MISSION AND HERITAGE

“It all began in Waimea, of course,” Jane says. “The Christmas Parade has become an important part of our parish mission and heritage, although that is just in recent years. This is a great example of stewardship and evangelization at work hand in hand.”

“This year, a problem developed in Waimea because of weather,” Dian adds. “It was raining and cold and so we didn’t participate. We had done so much preparation and the people were ready, but then it was disappointing that the weather didn’t cooperate. Fortunately, there was another parade in Waikoloa Village one week later, and we were able to take part in that. The people watching were thrilled to have a parade, and our people were equally thrilled to play a part in it.”

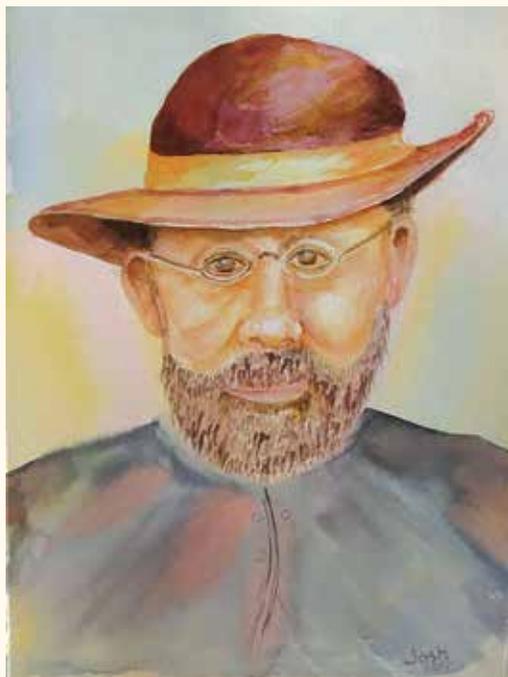
As Jane notes, about 40 from our parish participated.

“Through the years we have developed costuming and other items to enhance our presentation,” she says. “We select young people from the two churches to play the parts of Mary and Joseph, along with angels and shepherds and wise men and others. One of the high points for the crowd are the donkey and the camel, which our churches made. They add a special touch to what we do. We passed out candy canes with a message attached on the history of the candy cane and an invitation to attend Christmas Mass with us. We are already looking forward to next year. One of the things we have added this year is that our characters will be out in front of the church at the Christmas Eve Mass to greet people as they enter.”

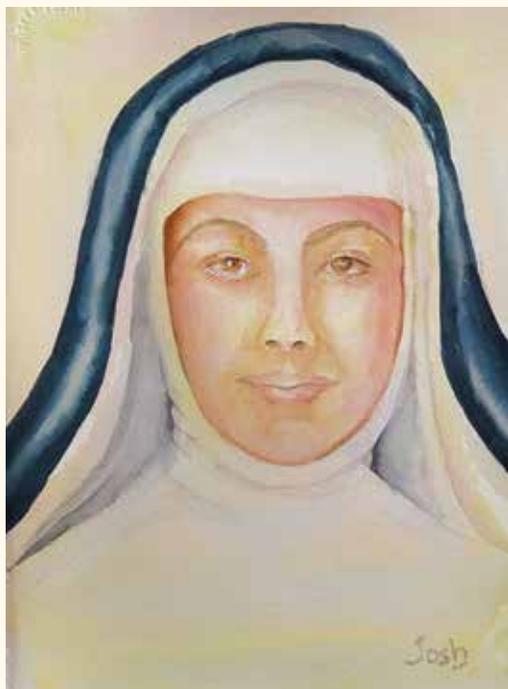


*Our parish thanks Jane and Dian for all they do to make this happen. It gives us a presence in the community, which is important. For more information, contact Jane Aganus at 808-887-1203 or Dian Burroughs at 808-238-0582.*

# Art and Fellowship



*Fr. Stephen commissioned parishioner Josh Akana to paint two pictures of St. Damien of Moloka'i for the parishes.*



*Fr. Stephen also asked Josh to do pieces featuring St. Marianne of Moloka'i.*

When longtime parishioner Josh Akana was no longer able to drive due to his health, he hoped to find a fellow parishioner who could help him get to Mass on Sundays.

Little did Josh realize that God had an even bigger plan.

Alexis Russell and her husband, John, parishioners and neighbors to Josh, volunteered to pick him up, and it wasn't long before Alexis and Josh discovered a common interest in art.

Although it had been nearly 70 years since Josh had painted in college, Alexis, an artist and art teacher, helped him spark a new interest in an old passion.

"Alexis brought me down to her place and we started looking at some of the things she had done and she gave me a pad and a pencil and said, 'Start drawing,'" says Josh with a chuckle. "That's how it started."

Since beginning, four years ago, Josh has created numerous pieces of art, from flowers, to portraits, and more. He was also the featured artist at an art show in Hilo.

For Josh, painting has given him a new zeal for life.

"It's an impetus for living, as it were, because now I have something else to consider besides looking out for my health and coping with day-to-day problems," Josh says. "When my wife died a couple of years ago, there was a deep void in my life — I was lost.

"Looking at the mountaintops and seeing how many shades of green and how many shades of brown there are, art has given me a greater interest in life," he continues. "Art seems to open up the world more so in my eyes. It has given me a greater appreciation of life, because I can see more beauty in my life."

A number of years prior, Alexis also experienced God bringing the gift of art in unexpected circumstances. She began painting during an illness she suffered while serving as a missionary in Africa.

"I had to be still, and I wasn't one to sit still," she recalls. "I just said, 'God, what am I supposed to be doing?' I heard Him say, 'Paint.'"

From there, Alexis went on to open an art school in the mission field.

"I love teaching young people and old people to develop their skills to use it for God's glory," she says.

After losing her first husband 10 years ago, Alexis left missions, remarried, and moved to the area.

"I was wondering what I was to do for the Lord, with my gifts, and then I met Josh," she says, with a smile.

For Alexis, art is a way that people can grow closer to God by awakening their innate desire to share in the work of their Creator.

"Inspiration comes from God Himself, He opens our eyes to

# Brings Beauty from Ashes

it,” Alexis says. “Inspiration really means ‘inspired’ — His Spirit inspires one to create. In the beginning, God created. Being in His image, we have that ability to create. I’m not saying that everyone’s called to be a painter or artist, but everyone creates.”

“In a way, it’s obedience to the calling and vocation,” she continues. “When I get a piece that I know is from God, the first thing I do is ask, ‘Help! God please help me do this. Help me go deeper into Your glory.’”

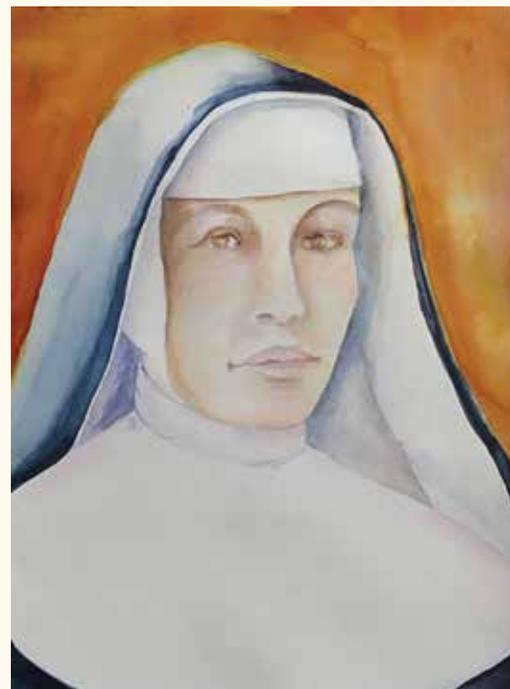
Earlier this year, Fr. Stephen Macedo commissioned Josh to paint two portraits of both Fr. Damien and Sr. Marianne, one set to be put at Annunciation Church in Waimea, and one set for our mission parish, in Puako. The portraits were recently finished and have found their homes in both of our churches.

“I hope that what parishioners see appeals to them physically and that their thoughts go beyond,” says Josh of the portraits. “I hope that the work I do gives people something to look at that’s appealing to the eye and appealing to the heart.”

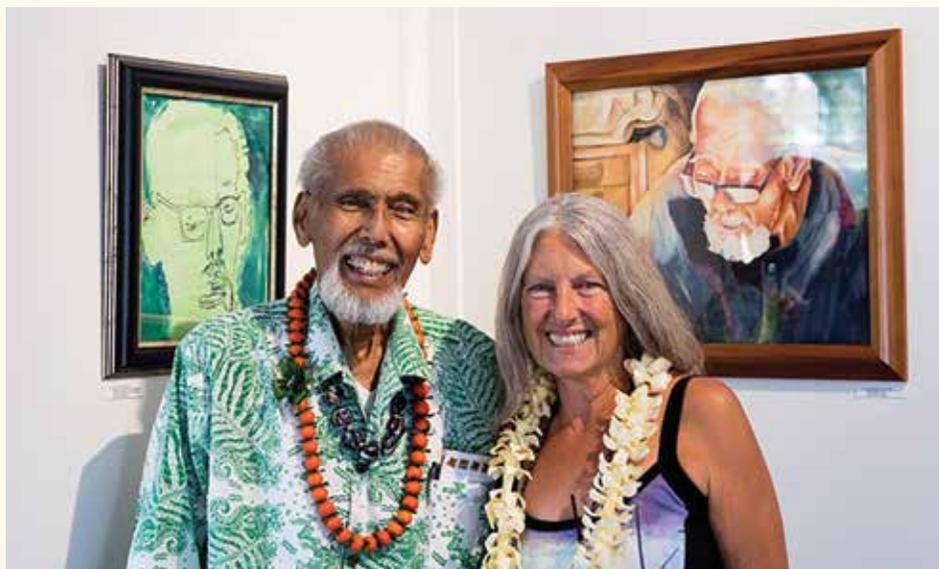
Alexis and Josh are both grateful for the journey God has led them on, bringing them blessings through both art and their friendship.

“Out of ashes, God makes beauty,” says Alexis.

“For me to sit back and realize, ‘How did I ever get to meet this couple?’ — if it hadn’t been for the church, I never would’ve met them,” Josh says. “It’s a good example of the mysterious ways our Lord leads us.”



*St. Marianne Cope spent much of her life working with lepers on the island of Moloka'i.*



*Josh and Alexis have been working together on art for the past four years.*



*St. Damien is best known for his service and care for those living in a leper colony on the Kalaupapa Peninsula in the 1800s.*

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## *Parish Stewardship Retreat* continued from front cover

different experience with fellow parishioners about our faith.

“My usual interaction with others during Mass is as an usher and our fledgling bell ministry,” he says. “I think especially for those of us who lead hectic lives and feel that days, weeks and years just seem to be flying by, this was a precious opportunity to slow things down, at least for a weekend, and relish some peaceful, reflective and contemplative moments. For that, I’m really grateful to Fr. Macedo and those in our parish who helped to put this on.”

And Tim came away from the retreat with a greater understanding about living in stewardship.

“The other significant takeaway was that it made me realize that it really isn’t just about what I can do for our church, it’s also about what I can do for others,” he says. “A couple of weeks after the retreat — after months of hemming and hawing and making excuses — I finally accepted a friend’s invitation to join him and a group of Rotarians and college students to help rebuild an elementary school in a remote fishing village in Cebu, Philippines. The school had been wiped out by a hurricane. It turned out to be, at once, one of the most physically exhausting, culturally amazing, and emotionally rewarding experiences of my life.”

*For more information about the upcoming retreat,  
please contact Larry Denis at 808-883-1999.  
RSVP online at [bit.ly/2018retreatwaimea](http://bit.ly/2018retreatwaimea) or visit the kiosk at church.*

### MASS SCHEDULE

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