

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH & ASCENSION MISSION

THE BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Embracing THOSE WHO *Mourn*

As members of our parish community, it is truly a blessing to know that if you lose a loved one, you won't have to grieve alone. The compassionate members of our Bereavement Ministry will be the arms of Christ to embrace you, and the heart of the Blessed Mother to care for you.

"It is so good that we can be there for those who are grieving, and show them that their parish family cares for them," says Geri Bell, who coordinates the ministry along with Pat Lee. "We are so glad we can befriend those who mourn, and help them through the grieving process."

The Bereavement Committee is a group of about six volunteers who give their time, talent, and treasure to help parishioners who are grieving get through the funeral planning process and beyond. They each carry out various functions to fulfill this task of mercy.

When one of our parishioners is faced with planning a funeral for a loved one, the parish office notifies Geri and Pat so that they can offer to help them plan the service. If they want help, Geri and Pat coordinate with Fr. Stephen to set a date for the funeral. Then, they visit with the family in person, offering condolences and helping them walk through the funeral planning. For example, they show them samples of programs, as well as choices of songs and Mass readings. They assist them in choosing people to fulfill various liturgical ministries at the funeral. Some of the

continued on back cover



(From left) Geri Bell and Pat Lee coordinate this important ministry of compassion.

SERVICE

The Fourth Pillar of Parish Stewardship

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are numerous references to service. There is the parable of the vigilant and faithful servants who await their master's return from a wedding, "ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks" (Lk 12:35-40). There is the story of the good Samaritan who was moved with compassion to help the victim of a violent robbery (Lk 10:25-37). And there are several examples of Christ serving those around Him – feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, and even turning water into wine at a wedding banquet.

Why is service a running theme throughout the Gospels? Because service is at the root of living in imitation of Christ. Christ served others throughout His life on Earth, and His death on the cross was the ultimate act of service to mankind. And when we serve others, we are not only following in Christ's footsteps, we are also serving Christ Himself: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

As a stewardship parish, service must be at the heart of everything we do. The parish community is the bastion of service within the Catholic Church, as we serve one another and are also served by our brothers and sisters in Christ. As the Diocese of Wichita's document, *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*, states, "Like a blood family, the parish family stands ready and eager collectively to wrap their arms around their brothers and sisters when they suffer in trial and/or celebrate special events in their lives."

It is good to recognize the parish community as a place where service is appreciated and can be utilized for the good of the Church. However, it is not enough for us to simply serve other members of our parish family. As disciples of Christ, it is our obligation to serve people in need everywhere they exist – in our families, our greater community, our country, and throughout the world. This can be a challenging concept, as it is often much more comfortable and convenient to serve those who are close to us than it is to reach out to "outsiders." But, as *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* eloquently points out, "Failure to have this understanding leads to a selfish parochialism, which is life draining to a parish stewardship way of life."

Think of ways that you can serve others around you, both within our parish family and in the greater community. Our many parish ministries offer a great place to begin offering your time and talents, but the opportunities for service don't end there. There are many civic and nonprofit organizations that do an immense amount to serve others across the globe and are always looking for volunteers.

Once you serve, you will find that you will reap numerous rewards in return, much like the faithful servants who doubled the talents their master had entrusted to them: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy" (Mt 25:21).

W
E
L
C
O
M
E
T
O
O
U
R
S
E
R
V
I
C
E

A Letter from Our Pastor

SAVE ROOM ON YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES FOR STEWARDSHIP

Dear Parishioners,

I don't know about you, but I still get a surge of adrenaline as the beginning of September approaches. This month marks new beginnings. Labor Day traditionally marks the unofficial end of Summer, and our calendars may reflect that. Many of you have calendars a lot like mine — they're full year-round with appointments and obligations. But even for us, things get busier in September as various organizations begin their regular round of meetings again.

Nevertheless, I have a request for you as you put together your upcoming schedules. First thing, please put in some time to share the talents God has given you. As you are aware, as Christian disciples — as stewards — we are called to return to God a portion of the Time, Talent, and Treasure He has entrusted to us. We should make our commitments to God when we begin our planning, so that we don't offer Him just the scraps of time and energy left over after everything else.

Make this September the month you make a commitment to sing in the choir, including attending rehearsals. Or begin working with our parish religious education in one way or another. Or decide to launder altar linens once a month. Or volunteer to help in the parish office one morning a week. Or help care for the parish grounds. Or join a social service ministry. Or... well, you get the idea.

There are many ministries and groups within the parish where you can serve, and you'll find that you receive even as you give. I encourage you to find at least one activity in which you can participate that fits your schedule. If you aren't involved, make this September the month to change that.

Thinking about commitments, some people say they don't have Time for prayer. Again, it's a matter of priorities, and I challenge any one of you to demonstrate to me that you can't pray at least one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be during the course of the day. That's at least a beginning.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Stephen
 Reverend Stephen Macedo
 Pastor



Please join us for our next Parish Picnic!

We chose a new location this year, with a bit calmer beach for our little ones.



When? Sunday, September 9, 2018

Time? 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where? Spencer's Beach Park, large pavilion

What? Food, fun, games & fellowship



We hope you can join us!

Please bring a dish to share. Parish will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, paper goods, juice & water. If you have questions, please email Maile at mc2000x3@yahoo.com

A SUMMER OF FUN AND FAITH

This summer, our Annunciation and Ascension youth enjoyed their Vacation Bible School and the retreat. We thank all who gave of their time.



TH FOR OUR PARISH YOUTH

enjoyed plenty of fun while learning about the faith during
me and talents to make these important activities possible for our youth!



UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF SACRAMENTALS IN OUR FAITH

Most Catholics are familiar with the idea of *sacraments* in the Church, of which there are seven. Sacraments are the foundation of the spiritual life for an individual and the Church. Sacraments are sources of grace — God’s very presence in our lives and unmerited favor from God. They are signs of God’s love, and these signs make present what they signify. Although a person benefits — receives the gift of grace — from the sacraments regardless of whether he or she is well disposed to them, one must cooperate with what the Spirit is doing in the sacrament to receive its full benefit.

Sacramentals are different. These are also sacred signs that can build holiness, but they do not work on their own. One must be aware and fully conscious of the sacred action. Sacramentals sanctify us to get the most benefit from the Sacraments (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1667). Sacramentals are given to us to make holy certain actions in life and life’s circumstances. There are many such sacred signs that are reminders to us of God.

The sign of the cross is perhaps one of the most fundamental of these signs, and for Catholics, this invocation is done at the start of every sacred action and prayer. Holy water is a sacramental, as it reminds us of our Baptism. By dipping our fingers into holy water and making the sign of the cross, we are combining two foundational symbols of the Christian life and the Paschal Mystery — the passion, dying and rising of Christ — and bringing them to life in us.

The exchange of peace in the Mass — and at other Catholic rites — is another example of a sacramental. By making some kind of meaningful sign of peace, we are giving the peace of Christ to another person. The chalice and other sacred vessels at Mass also are sacramentals, as they remind us of what they

are to contain — the very Body and Blood of Christ.

It might be helpful to organize the types of sacramentals into categories, as author Michael Pennock lists in *This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults*:

“*Actions* (blessings; genuflections; the sign of the cross; bowing one’s head at the name of Jesus; church processions); *Objects* (candles; holy water; statues and icons; holy pictures; blessed ashes; palms; rosaries; relics; incense; vestments; scapulars; church buildings; crosses; religious medals); *Places* (the Holy Land; Rome; Fatima; Lourdes; the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.; and other places of pilgrimage; chapels, retreat centers, and even Catholic cemeteries); *Prayers* (short prayers we say throughout the day; grace before and after meals; prayers at rising and going to bed; praying the rosary, praying a host of other traditional Catholic prayers and devotions); *Sacred Time* (liturgy; holy days; feasts of saints; your saint’s name day; special days of prayer; fasting and abstinence; retreats, etc.)” (*This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults*, 176-177).

“Sacramentals...prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it” (CCC 1670). In a word, sacramentals, through the prayer of the Church, bring us to holiness in Christ. All devotions of piety, including sacramentals, should point us toward the liturgy of the Church, a connection to a local parish community, and to the Eucharist (CCC 1675).

The Church, through Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, has given us these sacred signs to lead us in holiness, and to better recognize an authentic Christian life. How many sacramentals can you recognize in your life? Probably more than you think.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ANNUNCIATION: *Ensuring Our Youth Are Engaged in their Faith*

It was Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who wrote addressing religious education teachers, “A particular responsibility...for each of you, and your colleagues, is to evoke the desire for the act of faith (in others), encouraging them to commit themselves to the ecclesial life that follows from this belief.” Religious Education is important to our faith and to our Parish. Given our particular location as a faith community, our responsibility to form our young parishioners in the faith is essential.

“The nearest Catholic School is 60 miles away from our community,” says Jane Aganus, Director of Religious Education. “The only education in their faith our children get is at home, at Mass and weekly religious education classes. With the restoration of the original order which has occurred in our diocese, we need to continue educating them in their faith and teach them to be disciples of Jesus while in classes at religious education and, most importantly, at home.”

Classes begin on Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 16, for both churches. Classes at Ascension for grades preschool/K begin at 9 a.m., and go to 9:45 a.m. First through fifth grades at Ascension

are from 8:15 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 10 a.m. A light snack is provided. Classes at Annunciation for first through fifth grades are after the 8 a.m. Mass. A light snack is provided and classes begin at 9:15 going to 10:30. Children and their parents are encouraged to attend Mass.



Please note that there is a change in schedule for Ascension and Annunciation in relation to the Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry for sixth through 12th grades will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the Annunciation Parish Hall. They will meet in different groups, but will share a snack when they meet.

Registration for all classes was held at both Waimea and Puako churches during the

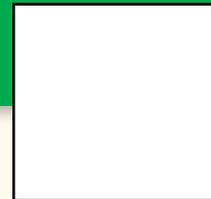
month of August before and after all Masses, and will continue through this month and beyond.

Most are aware that our diocese has restored the original order of sacraments, so that children in second through 10th grades were confirmed this past May. Our challenge is to keep them engaged and involved in the life of the Church.

“We are planning to keep our children and youth engaged by having them sign up in various ministries of our parish, continue attending RE classes, community service events, retreats, fun activities and events,” Jane says. “We encourage and direct them to be servants as Jesus was with His disciples.”

As Jane notes, our Religious Education program can always use catechists. “Catechists are required to get certified in Safe Environment, get a background check and attend Faith Formation workshops to keep up with their faith, attend Mass and be willing to volunteer their time and talent in this ministry,” she says. “We need a few more catechists so we can set up team teaching. This is very helpful when one is ill or needs to tend to personal affairs and cannot make it to Sunday classes.”

If parents would like to learn more about our Religious Education program, or if you'd like to serve as a Catechist, please contact Jane Aganus at 808-887-1203 or 808-989-7274.



Annunciation / Ascension Parish
PO Box 301 Kamuela, HI 96743

THE BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE: *Embracing Those Who Mourn* *continued from front cover*

Bereavement Committee members are available to serve as altar servers, lectors, etc. In addition, they help set up the church for the funeral, as well as the parish hall if needed.

Furthermore, the Committee members provide references for formal grief counseling if requested, and follow up with the bereaved several times over the course of the upcoming year. About three weeks after the funeral, the Committee members send the bereaved a pamphlet, *A Time to Grieve*; three months after, one named *Experiencing Grief*; six months after, *Finding Hope and Healing*; and 11 months, *Rebuilding and Remembering*.

Each year, after All Souls' Day Mass on Nov. 2, ministry members give candles to the families of those who have died in the past year. This act of remembrance is a way to honor both the deceased and their families, and help them bring further resolution to the grieving process.

In essence, those who volunteer to be part of the

Bereavement Committee find that it is a powerful, yet challenging way to express heartfelt love for their brothers and sisters in Christ.

"This ministry is not an easy one to do, because it deals with death," Geri says. "However, it is a great way to serve the Lord and do His work."

About six years ago, Geri was inspired to respond to join this ministry, and she hasn't regretted opening her heart for a minute.

"My love for the Lord has led me to this," Geri says. "I have been a Catholic my whole life and I have always wanted to do something like it. I am so thankful I can help those who mourn. It is a hard ministry, and many feel that they cannot handle it, but I guess I have the 'stomach' for it!"

If you would like more information about this beautiful ministry, please contact Geri Bell at 808-885-7810.

MASS SCHEDULE

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