

ANNUNCIATION & CHURCH ASCENSION MISSION



Prayer With Purpose: Rosary Groups Offer Devotion Opportunities

Cathy Elliazar grew up with the Rosary as part of her life. She recalls that it was a choir practice, however that prompted her to begin the Rosary Group.

“About 10 to 15 years ago, I was in the choir and we said the Rosary,” Cathy says. “When I was growing up, my Mom had us pray it each night kneeling around her bed. As I grew older, even though I wasn’t saying it daily, it was important to me. In 2005, I had this urge to start a group, but I didn’t know how. When a friend from choir suggested I start a group, that was the final nudge. We started with the choir, and it grew from there.”

Cathy leads one group that meets at 2 p.m. each

Monday in the Chapel, and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. On the Fridays that adoration cannot be held, the group will also meet after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Janice Brencick leads the Rosary after the weekend Masses.

No matter which group is gathered to pray the Rosary, their intentions are the same.

“On the anniversary of Roe v Wade, we concentrate on pro-life Rosary intentions,” Cathy says. “During October, which is the Month of the Rosary, we do Rosary for Life which reflects on respect for life, marriage and families. Our special intentions will also include praying for the repose of the souls of those in our parish community who have recently

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*Prayer With Purpose:
Rosary Groups Offer Devotion Opportunities* *continued from front cover*

passed — for victims of major disasters and violent incidents that happen from time to time.”

And of course, the season of Lent provides a powerful opportunity to focus on the Sorrowful Mysteries.

“It is so sad in the journey of Jesus, what He did,” Cathy says. “When we reach Easter, we pray the Glorious Mysteries, and during Advent, the Joyful Mysteries. Each is a reflection of Jesus’s life and Mary’s devotion. We also do the Divine Mercy Chaplet after the Rosary. It is a wonderful prayer.”

While the Rosary is a devotion that can be prayed at home, there is most certainly a power in praying in a group.

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to the Blessed Mother and Jesus. The more people feel they are praying in unity, together for each other, it makes you feel good afterward. You leave with a good purpose in your heart.”

Anyone is welcome to join in the Rosary Groups, no matter what day or time.

“A friend came to me today after Mass,” Cathy recalls. “And she wanted to get a rosary. I gave her a rosary and booklets on the Rosary, and invited her to attend. She was grateful to be able to come, and with the past experiences of what she’s going through, God told her to come. She stopped by. It was great. Sometimes that happens. I always try to help whenever someone stops by. Some stop in to pray, and even though our times are listed in the bulletin, people forget we are there. It’s always nice to come by. They are very grateful to have the opportunity.”

If anyone needs a rosary, Cathy Elliazar makes sets that are available at the religious counter in the back of the church. If anyone has questions about any of the Rosary Groups, please call Cathy at 808-896-4919.

A Letter from Our Pastor

ALL THINGS AND ALL PEOPLE ARE MADE NEW

Dear Parishioners,

We associate the Easter season with the *new* — it is a time of new life and new beginnings.

This idea of being “new” is important to us as Catholics, and it is important to our parish. We need to strive to do this on a regular basis — even on a daily basis. Think of the fact that all was once new. Regardless of how you view the development of this earth and those of us who occupy it, all was once new.

As we enter into the Easter season later this month, we need to retain that idea of being “new.” And being “new” means conversion, and we have often pointed out that conversion is at the heart of a life of stewardship.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it, “The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life” (654).

In other words, Christ’s Resurrection is the source of our new life — our own future resurrection. St. Paul wrote about it to the Romans in the following words (Rom 6:5): “For



if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.”

Hope for a new life beginning now and extending on into heaven is the result of Jesus’ Resurrection. What greater grounds for thanksgiving can there be than this Easter hope? We should sing with joy about God’s promise to us: “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev 21:5).

St. Paul also wrote (Col 3:1-2), “If then you were raised with

Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” Jesus’ Resurrection and His promise of a new life for us means that we need to live in conformity with our status as adopted children of God.

How do we show our joy and our gratitude to God for this amazing gift He has given us? We join in worship, and praise God by word and song. We share the Good News of Jesus’ victory over death with our family, friends and neighbors. And we offer back to the Lord a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us.

Yes, the Easter message — that we share in the benefits of Christ’s Resurrection — indeed makes all things new. And it is the ultimate foundation for how we live out our Christian stewardship.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Stephen

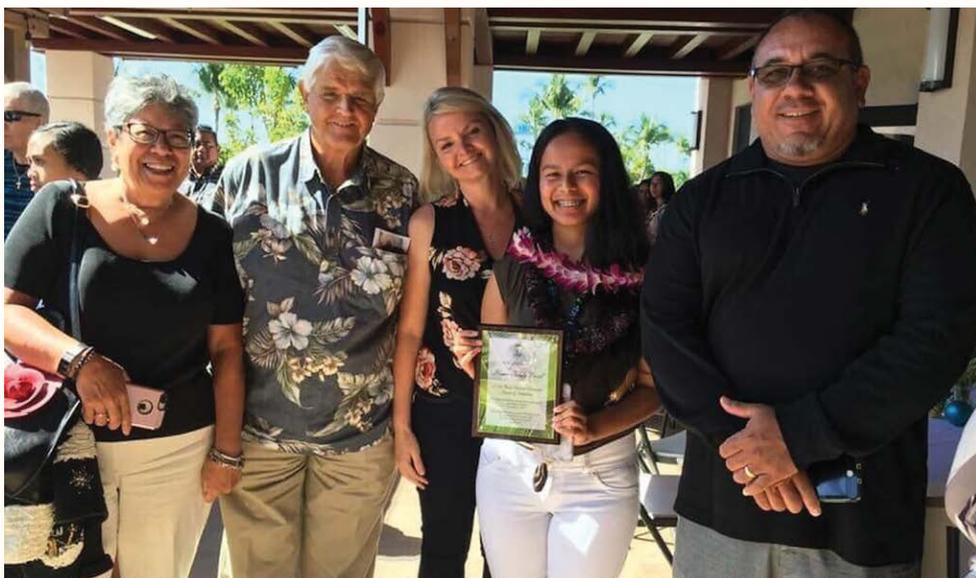
Reverend Stephen Macedo
Pastor

Deeann Bokuku Pitio

During his World Youth Day 2019 address, Pope Francis spoke the following words to hundreds of thousands of young Catholics who had gathered in Panama City: “Do not be afraid to tell the Lord that you, too, want to be a part of His love story in this world, that you are ready for something greater!”

Here at Annunciation, we are blessed with a youth group whose members show us every day what a powerful part of God’s “story” young people can be. Eighteen-year-old Deeann Bokuku Pitio, a 2018 Bishop’s Island Treasure Award recipient, is one parishioner who has benefited from participating in this valuable ministry, and her words and life certainly are a testament to the love of Christ in this world!

A member of Annunciation since her family moved to our area about 10 years ago, Deeann first became involved with the parish Youth Ministry when she was a sophomore in high school. Although she admits that she



Deeann Bokuku Pitio receives her Island Treasure Award and is congratulated by Aunty Darlene and Uncle Peter Walencewicz, and Aunty Carrie and Uncle Dennis Voss.

attend the first few meetings at the insistence of her parents, Deeann now can’t imagine her life without this wonderful faith-sharing group.

“I just love going there and being surrounded by other kids that are like me,” Deeann says. “It’s a good feeling — it helps me to be closer to God, and it helps to strengthen my faith.

“It’s very different than being at school, because I don’t really see a lot of people at school who share my beliefs, so the youth group is very different,” she adds. “I think it helps me become a better person, to be happier and more forgiving. I honestly just can’t imagine my life without it.”

The opportunity to seek God’s presence with a group of

“By getting involved in something like youth group, you can be yourself. Instead of worrying about what other people think of you, the only thing that matters is what you and God have, and what He has planned for you. That’s how I’m trying to live my life as of now.” — Deeann Bokuku Pitio

STRIVES TO LIVE OUT HER FAITH DAILY

like-minded peers is a big part of what continues to draw Deeann to our Youth Ministry. This year, that communal experience was amplified when she and three other youth from our parish traveled to World Youth Day in Panama City to gather with countless other young Catholics.

Deeann's week in Panama, where she got to hear the inspiring stories of many speakers, including Pope Francis, encouraged her in the faith and gave her memories to treasure for a lifetime.

"I don't really have the words to describe it," Deeann says of her World Youth Day experience. "It was like youth group — when I'm surrounded by other Catholic kids — but this was a lot more. It was amazing to see that so many people share our faith. I loved going to daily Mass and meeting people from all around the world and getting closer to the people that I went with."

Deeann points to the Fiat Festival as a pivotal moment during her weeklong travels. The festival, featuring multiple dynamic Catholic speakers, took its name from the day's theme, which was based on Luke 1:38. Often referred to as Mary's "yes" or the *fiat*, this is the moment when Mary tells the angel Gabriel, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

"What I liked about the Fiat Festival was hearing all the different stories about when the speakers heard a calling and said 'yes' to it," Deeann says. "Sister Bethany Madonna was the best — her stories were so amazing and inspiring."

For young people navigating the often turbulent waters of the teenage years, having the support of our Youth Ministry and experiences such as the one Deeann had in Panama can be truly life-changing.

"In our generation, some people are scared to be different and just want to follow the crowd," Deeann says. "This trip made me realize that I can follow where Christ wants me to go, instead of doing what

society is telling me to do. By getting involved in something like youth group, you can be yourself. Instead of worrying about what other people think of you, the only thing that matters is what you and God have, and what He has planned for you. That's how I'm trying to live my life as of now."

In all she does, Deeann strives to be a good role model in the faith for her six younger siblings. She credits her grandmother, Judith Suzuki, and her parents, Johnny and Tomininta Pitio, for always providing her with a strong example in the faith, and hopes to do the same for others. As one of the leaders of the sacred gestures for the Our Father during Mass, Deeann loves to look out over the pews at all of the people smiling and enjoying this special tradition of Annunciation and Ascension.

Deeann is deeply thankful for the strong faith foundation she has been given by her supportive family, our loving faith community and our Youth Ministry.

"I believe that God is working in my life," Deeann says. "He made it possible for me to go on the trip to World Youth Day and to be inspired. With all that I have in my life, I feel really blessed. Yes, He has blessed me."



Annunciation youth enjoyed a trip to World Youth Day — (from left) Helena, Jaydon, Josiah and Deeann — with a fellow pilgrim they met at the event.

Steadfast in Faith and Devotion: **St. Catherine of Siena**



On April 29, we celebrate the feast day of a doctor of the Church — one who remained absolutely devoted to living her life for Christ, even in the face of familial misunderstanding in her youth, and through societal opposition and turmoil during her later years. As stewards in our fast-paced, highly technical — and often fractured — world, we can always look to the life and example of St. Catherine of Siena, and strive to remain steadfast in our faith while facing our own modern-day challenges.

Born in mid-14th-century Italy to a large family, and in the midst of a plague outbreak, St. Catherine of Siena was her parents' 25th child, although half of her siblings did not survive through childhood. Young Catherine resisted her family's desire for her to marry — she even went so far as to begin fasting and cutting her hair short in protest. Her parents eventually relented, as Catherine strived to humbly serve her own family, treating her own father as Jesus, her mother as Mary, and her brothers as the apostles.

Such was Catherine's desire to remain in service to her own family that instead of entering a convent, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic at age 18.

This enabled her to continue serving her family at home, even as she was part of a religious society. In time, she learned to read and began giving her family's own possessions to those in need — even though her parents didn't necessarily approve of her entirely altruistic approach to service.

Continuing with her faithful devotion as part of the Third Order of St. Dominic, Catherine developed a following of her own, as she wrote letters offering spiritual encouragement and instruction. Controversy would ensue, as her writings began to comment on public matters through her firm lens of faith.

In the midst of these spiritual developments, at age 21, Catherine underwent a profound change, as she experienced what she called her "mystical marriage to Christ." Through this experience, she was directed to help the poor and the sick.

Catherine began serving those in need in hospitals and homes, which inspired followers to assist in these important missions of service, love and mercy. Furthermore, she continued to comment on public matters, petitioning for peace in the midst of political fracture and strife. This continued through the Great Schism, beginning in 1378, as Catherine spent two years — the last years of her life — in Rome, praying and pleading for unity in the Church, and for the cause of Pope Urban VI.

By January 1380, Catherine was gravely ill, unable to eat or drink — shortly thereafter, she lost the use of her legs. At only 33 years old, she would pass away on April 29, 1380. She was canonized nearly a century later, in 1461.

Despite her short life, St. Catherine of Siena made a profound impact on the Church through her spiritually direct writings, her work serving those in need, and in preserving the unity of the Church in the face of great societal upheavals — all while being singularly devoted to living a life for Christ. Her status led her to be declared a co-patron of Italy (alongside St. Francis of Assisi) in 1939. And in 1970, Pope Paul VI declared St. Catherine of Siena a doctor of the Church.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

St. Consolata Pre and Primary School, Tanzania

For a third straight year, all St. Consolata School 2018 graduates passed national exams and are now in secondary schools. This is also their third-ever graduation. Their score average was “A” for all except for one “B.” They rank number one among 120 schools in the county, and 84 among 6,772 schools nationwide!

Again, this school continues to build new history for this rural community, where going to secondary school was so rare.

The Effect of St. Consolata’s Academic Success:

- The County Department of Education is so proud of St. Consolata — the school’s success has resulted in higher ranking for the county — in comparison to other counties nationwide.
- Nearby public schools are motivated and are now working hard to perform better. Public school teachers want to see that their students go beyond primary education, as well. They teach more and students are more motivated to learn, knowing that there is a future for them if they work hard. They want to succeed, just like St. Consolata students. It’s all wonderful!
- St. Consolata School has created very positive influence in the region. Teachers, parents and students now know that going to school in rural areas does not necessarily mean that you cannot succeed. Hard work rewards. Each primary school in the region is now having more students going to high schools since last year. They all mention St. Consolata School as their motivator. So rewarding!
- St. Consolata School is receiving many calls from parents who want their children to come to the school. They first want to know where it is located — *of course, it’s in the middle of nowhere.* Hidden, but performing wonders!

We are so grateful to each person who has been part of this ministry to the rural people of

Baraki, and now spreading beyond Baraki. We thank each individual for being part of the success of St. Consolata School, and the positive impact that the school has in the region. One act of self-giving goes a long way. Thank you for changing so many lives, for giving that promising future to so many children of rural Tanzania, whether they go to St. Consolata or they are in those schools that now want to perform just as good as St. Consolata students.



Kindergarten 2019



Construction of the dormitory began in February 2019. Every possible effort is being made to make sure that the school stays open. So far, \$42,000 has been raised. Partial construction of the dormitory will show efforts that are being made to develop the school.



Annunciation / Ascension Parish
PO Box 301 Kamuela, HI 96743

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Penance Service, April 9

6 p.m. — Waimea

Holy Thursday, April 18

5 p.m. — Puako

7 p.m. — Waimea

Adoration following Mass until
Midnight - Old Church, Waimea

Good Friday, April 19

Stations of the Cross w/ St. James

Noon — Waimea

Good Friday, April 19 (continued)

Service

5 p.m. — Puako

7 p.m. — Waimea

Holy Saturday, April 20

No Confessions.

Easter Vigil, 7 p.m. — Waimea

Easter Sunday, April 21

8 a.m. — Waimea

10 a.m. — Puako

MASS SCHEDULE

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