

ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH & ASCENSION MISSION



MEET PARISHIONER MARK REBELLON

High School Senior Following the Lord's Call to a Stewardship Way of Life

Ever since he moved to Hawaii with his family in 2017, Mark Rebellon has found ways to serve the Lord and the parish community here at Annunciation Church. A lifelong Catholic, Mark was born in the Philippines and was active at his parish there before his family's move. Here in Hawaii, he has continued to share his talents with the parish and glorify God through his service. A recent recipient of the Youth Island Treasures award, Mark plans to continue to follow the Lord's call wherever it may take him.

"Being recognized as an Island Treasure is such a gift from God — it's such a blessing from Him," he says. "But I don't need an award, because it's my mission here — my mission on this earth is to serve God and the Church. Serving others has helped me to grow closer to God."

Mark is currently a student at Honoka'a Intermediate and High School, and he has been active in the parish's Youth Ministry program since Sept. 2018. He enjoys sharing his knowledge of the faith with his peers.

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FAITH AND SCIENCE

Can They Mix?

There have long been scientists who claimed that their work was “incompatible” with faith in God. But as our world has become increasingly polarized, more and more people seem to believe that there must be a disconnect between faith and reason. For many scientists — and secular scholars in other fields, as well — religion and academics are deemed mutually exclusive. If something cannot be proven empirically, they posit, it is foolhardy to stake one’s life on it. And yet, this is exactly what we as Catholic Christians do — every time we say the word “amen,” in fact, we are declaring that we believe Church teachings to be an absolute truth.

So is all this to say that the Church really is “anti-science,” as some of its detractors claim? Certainly not! In fact, most people — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — would probably be very surprised to know just how many Catholic thinkers have played a major role in the development of modern scientific thought.

Most of us are familiar with some of the earliest scientific advances made by famous Catholic scholars like Copernicus, Galileo, Descartes, and Leonardo da Vinci. But fast-forward to the 19th

century — when countless innovations in modern science began kicking into high gear — and the contributions made by Catholic scientists are astounding! For example, the Mercalli scale used to measure earthquakes was developed by an Italian Catholic volcanologist, Giuseppe Mercalli, at the turn of the last century. You may also remember some of the laws of Mendelian inheritance from your high school biology class — Augustinian friar and botanist Gregor Mendel first discovered these recessive and dominant “factors” (which would later come to be called genes) in the 1800s, becoming the founder of genetics.

Of course, these are just a few of the more widely known examples. Those who work in the specific fields of physics and cosmology have several priests to thank for the incredible advances made in this area of study over the last century. Fr. Georges Lemaître was a Catholic priest living in Belgium during the first half of the 20th century. A professor of astronomy and physics at the Catholic University of Leuven, Fr. Lemaître was the first scientist to propose the Big Bang theory — which he referred to as the “primeval atom” or the “Cosmic Egg” — and the theory of the

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expansion of the universe. Fr. Lemaître's brilliant and meticulous research won over even the most skeptical scientists in his field — reportedly, upon hearing Fr. Lemaître present his theories at a conference in California, Albert Einstein declared, "This is the most beautiful and satisfactory explanation of creation to which I have ever listened."

For Fr. Lemaître, who served as president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences from 1960 until his death in 1966, balancing the worlds of priesthood and cosmology research was not always easy. Sometimes, Catholic believers misunderstood his quest to discover the origin of the universe as a desire to put limits on God. On the other side, secular scientists questioned his ability to formulate theories of the universe objectively, suspecting that he was seeking to manipulate his scientific finds to fit them within Church teaching. In reality, Fr. Lemaître always advocated for a strict separation between science and faith, claiming that the Bible was not intended to be read as a science textbook and that "God could not be reduced to a scientific hypothesis." For this Catholic scientist, although faith and science may have each answered separate questions, they were

certainly not incompatible.

In contrast to Lemaître's careful separation of questions of science and faith, another famous physicist priest takes the opposite approach. Fr. Michal Heller, professor of philosophy at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, Poland, and member of the Vatican Observatory staff, seeks to bring together the fields of science, philosophy, and theology. In an interview with *The New York Times* upon his receipt of the acclaimed Templeton Prize for science and religion in 2008, Heller explained: "I always wanted to do the most important things, and what can be more important than science and religion? Science gives us knowledge, and religion gives us meaning. Both are prerequisites of the decent existence." Fr. Heller, whose current research focuses on general relativity and quantum mechanics, strives to study the known elements of science within the context of a universe that has an (empirically) unknowable God as its creator.

In a similar way, yet another scientist priest of the past century successfully reconciled science and faith in his life's work. Fr. Stanley Jaki (1924-2009) was a Hungarian Benedictine priest who held doctorates in theology

and physics, and authored over 40 books in these fields — and in the history of science — during his lifetime. Fr. Jaki is perhaps best known for his claim that modern science and cosmology were only made possible through the Christian understanding of creation that took root in medieval Europe. Fr. Jaki believed that faith and science must work together, and he warned against the tendency of modern society to seek omniscience through scientific study, thus letting science take the place of God.

Certainly, the list of Catholic scientists who have deservedly become renowned in their fields of study is longer than most people probably imagine. Still today, scientists like astronomer Fr. George Coyne, former director of the Vatican Observatory and current professor at Le Moyne College in New York, continue to make significant contributions to the study of modern science worldwide. Contrary to those who may try to claim that faith and science are incompatible, the Church has proven over the centuries that understanding the science behind how our world works absolutely can — and *should* — go hand in hand with the pursuit of fully knowing and serving our God.

*Are you interested in learning about the Church's teachings on the relationship between faith and reason? The papal encyclicals *Humani Generis* and *Fides et Ratio* provide in-depth explorations of this important topic.*

“STEWARDSHIP IN THE FAMILY” *Inviting Parishioners on a Retreat*

As one of the co-founders of Catholic Stewardship Consultants — an organization committed to developing Disciples of Christ through the practice of stewardship at parishes across the United States — Lisa McArdle has been having conversations on the topic of stewardship with people all over the country for close to 25 years. Not long ago, however, she was so inspired by one of these conversations that she created an entirely new retreat experience.

“I was speaking with a gentleman recently and he apologized because he felt he hadn’t been a good steward in the parish,” Lisa says. “He had been the primary caretaker for his father, and told me that his father had just passed and now he hoped to be a better steward in the parish. My heart just broke, because what he didn’t understand was that he had been living as a steward in the best way he could by taking care of his family.”

Following that conversation, Lisa knew she had a mission — helping people understand that we are all called to holiness, and that this call most often begins right in our own homes. With this in mind, Lisa has begun leading retreats on the theme of Stewardship in the Family. In March, Annunciation will be blessed to have Lisa bring this retreat to our parish.

In contrast to many other spiritual experiences, the “Stewardship in the Family” retreat is directed by lay people. As a mother of five daughters ranging in age from 9 to 24 — and now a “Mimi” to her first grandchild — Lisa has experienced firsthand both the challenges and rewards of family life. Her talks at the retreat will highlight the spiritual transformation that takes place when we make stewardship central to our family life.

“We’re all called to live as stewards,” Lisa says. “It’s not just for saints or pastors or Pope Francis. Stewardship doesn’t just begin and end in our parish families, either — it really begins at home in our domestic churches. Ultimately, that is where it is taught and resonates the most.”

The daylong retreat will be on March 14, and include talks, personal reflection, small group discussion, and time for fellowship.



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FAMILY" RETREAT

Closer Walk with Christ

As a busy mother, Lisa knows that it is not always easy to carve out the time for a retreat. Often, however, that is the very reason we should make the effort to do so!

"Families are so busy now that we don't know how to stop," she says. "Learning to be still and finding out what God is calling us to is so important, and to be centered in our faith is now more essential than ever. A priest once told me that we were created as human beings, not 'human doings,' and yet we're so busy doing that we never stop to reflect. It's really a gift to stop and make sure we're on the path where God wants us."

Lisa hopes that parishioners attending this retreat will return home with a renewed sense of their mission in this world — a mission that does not begin and end in our parish, but instead informs the way we live our lives, every day and everywhere.

"I encourage people to look at how they spend

time with their families and what decisions they are making as a family of stewards," she says. "God has given us all talents. Whether you are washing dishes, changing a diaper, cheering for your son at baseball games, caring for a parent — all of these things are important."

All parishioners and visitors — from young parents to empty nesters to singles — are welcome to come experience together the spiritual growth that this retreat promises. A closer walk as disciples of Christ awaits you!

"I think that learning more about discipleship will transform hearts and transform lives," Lisa says. "In turn, strengthening families will strengthen the parish. I think of the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta — 'If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.' It sounds so simple, but it's so profound. If we all did that, it would have a ripple effect and the world would be so much better."

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— Lisa McArdle

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	Oct. 1, 2019 - Dec. 31, 2019
Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Mass - Waimea	\$19,993.39
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Mass - Waimea	\$29,300.30
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass - Puako	\$24,783.27
Online Sunday Giving	\$16,141.26
Special Offerings (maint.offerings & grants - includes \$620 online)	\$9,105.35
Holy Days	\$15,421.00
Special Gifts & Bequests	\$1,500.00
Food Pantry/Hunger-Free Keiki Donations & Grants	\$25,341.50
Online Food Pantry/Hunger-Free Keiki Donations	\$2,530.00
Interest Income	\$2,544.81
Candle Offerings	\$2,355.27
Evangelization Donations (includes \$593.20 online)	\$657.68
Other Income (mail-in donations/RE reg/Sacraments/intentions)	\$10,101.23
TOTAL INCOME	\$159,775.06
Second Collections - Money disbursed	\$3,031.00
Expenses	
Priest Expenses (salary, medical, retirement, business meals, cell)	\$17,347.70
Lay Expenses (wages, medical, empl. taxes, insurance)	\$14,364.96
Office Expenses	\$1,175.11
Insurance (property & liability)	\$21,528.00
General Excise Taxes	\$578.07
Puako Lease	\$3,335.98
Waimea repairs, maintenance & improvements	\$7,741.48
Puako repairs, maintenance & improvements(A/C bal.,flooring)	\$53,563.68
Waimea Utilities & Communications (all buildings)	\$3,590.12
Puako Utilities & Communications (church/house)	\$1,304.51
Diocese Assessment	\$18,531.00
Stewardship Expenses	\$10,131.78
Liturgy Expense (includes candle exp. of \$3,366.47)	\$4,957.73
Equipment & Furniture	\$2,769.74
Appreciation Expenses & Ministry Food	\$1,569.41
Other Expenses (travel, lodging, professional fees, subscriptions, etc.)	\$7,347.22
Faith Fomation (Retreats, Convocation, Youth Days, textbooks, Safe Env.)	\$1,724.81
Evangelization (Christmas/Easter Books, newsletter, seasonal inserts)	\$5,179.44
Other Community Outreach (includes personal care kits)	\$0.00
Food Pantry Expense	\$18,759.50
Hunger-Free Keiki	\$4,660.44
Parish Tithing (support to other parishes/religious org., etc)	\$1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$201,660.68
Net Income (Income minus Expenses)	-\$41,885.62

Never Alone

THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Most of us have witnessed a Baptism or attended a Confirmation Mass. It's also not uncommon to have shared in a couples' celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, or perhaps been present at a priest or deacon's Ordination Mass. And as practicing Catholics, we regularly have the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. However, there is one of the seven Sacraments with which many Catholics are likely far less familiar — the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Some might be familiar with the sacrament under a different name, such as "Extreme Unction" or "Last Rites." Today, it is celebrated with greater frequency than in times past, including any time someone is seriously ill or approaching surgery, advanced in age, or when a person is nearing death. What was once often considered with anxiety — as a sign of immediate death — is hopefully understood as a gift of grace, strength and healing for whatever serious health struggle a person may be facing.

The basis of this sacrament comes from the book of James, "Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint (him) with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven." (James 5:14-15)

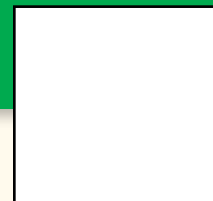
The sacrament is celebrated in a number of different ways, sometimes as part of a community-wide healing Mass, where everyone is offered the opportunity to be anointed, and other times, on an individual basis, with a priest visiting someone in their home, nursing home or the hospital. In these cases, the sacrament usually includes a brief time of prayer, and perhaps a reading from Scripture. After this, there are prayers of intercession and the sick person is anointed with oil on their forehead and hands. Finally, there are several additional prayers and, if they are able, the person receives Holy Communion. The simple ritual is filled with beautiful meaning, serving to remind the sick person that, whatever their suffering, God remains with them — they are never alone.

Anointing of the Sick, along with Reconciliation, is a Sacrament of Healing. Although the healing may take different forms — sometimes physical, sometimes mental, emotional or spiritual — the sacrament is always an opportunity for the person to have an encounter with God, the Divine Physician. In this sacrament, God extends the gift of comfort and peace, giving the grace to trust in His perfect plan.



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If you or a loved one would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please contact the parish office at 808-887-1220.



Annunciation / Ascension Parish
65-1235 Kawaihae Rd.
Waimea, HI 96743

Mark Rebellon *continued from front cover*

Mark is also a member of the Parish Choir. Back in the Philippines, he was a member of the choir for three years at his parish, Santa Maria Church, also known as Our Lady of the Assumption.

“I wanted to continue my ministry here, and I enjoy playing the piano for the parishioners,” he says. “I’ve been enjoying playing with Auntie Marianne, who is my piano-playing partner, and my co-choir members are really fun and great stress relievers.

“What I like most about playing music at the Mass is that I’m playing for the Lord,” he adds. “It’s also a way I can connect to my patron saint, St. Cecilia, who is the patron saint of music.”

After high school, Mark hopes to get his bachelor’s degree in political science, and is also discerning a call to enter the seminary. No matter what he does, though, he plans to continue to pray and listen for God’s call every step of the way.

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MASS SCHEDULE

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