

Pope Francis names 15 cardinal electors, most from global South

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Hawaii Catholic Herald

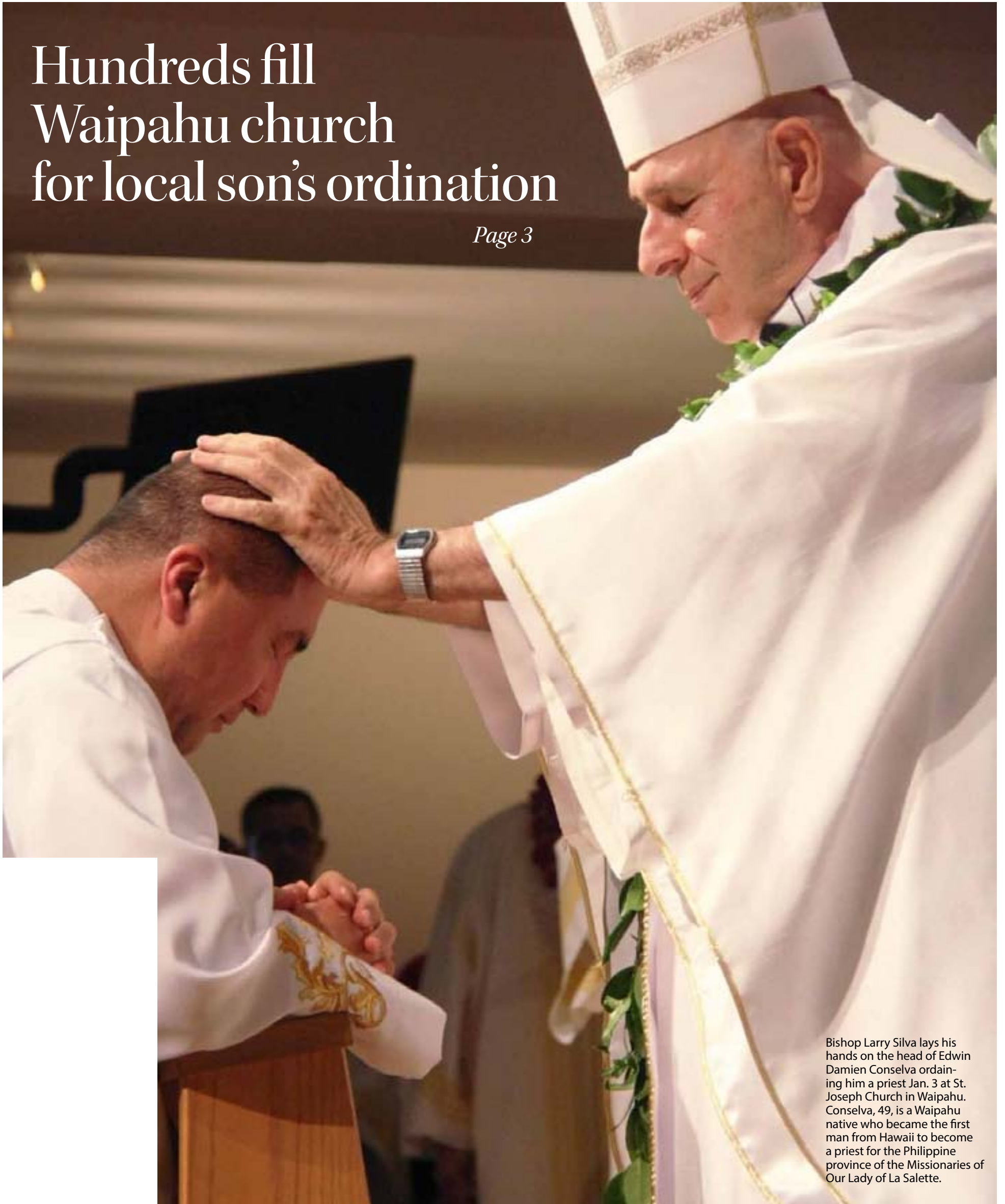
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015

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Hundreds fill Waipahu church for local son's ordination

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Bishop Larry Silva lays his hands on the head of Edwin Damien Conselva ordaining him a priest Jan. 3 at St. Joseph Church in Waipahu. Conselva, 49, is a Waipahu native who became the first man from Hawaii to become a priest for the Philippine province of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.

Vatican panel unanimous: Archbishop Romero is a martyr

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A panel of theologians advising the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes voted unanimously to recognize the late Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero as a martyr, according to the newspaper of the Italian bishops' conference.

The panel declared Jan. 8 that

the archbishop had been killed "in hatred for the faith," *Avvenire* reported Jan. 9.

The decision is a key step in the archbishop's cause, following an extended debate over whether he was killed for political reasons or for his faith.

The next step in the process lies with the cardinals and bishops who sit on the Congregation for Saints' Causes, who will vote

on whether to advise the pope to issue a decree of beatification. A miracle is not needed for beatification of a martyr, though a miracle is ordinarily needed for his or her canonization as saint.

Archbishop Romero, an outspoken advocate for the poor, was shot and killed March 24, 1980, as he celebrated Mass in a hospital in San Salvador during his country's civil war. His sainthood cause was

opened at the Vatican in 1993.

Pope Benedict XVI told reporters in 2007 that the archbishop was "certainly a great witness of the faith" who "merits beatification, I do not doubt." But he said some groups had complicated the sainthood cause by trying to co-opt the archbishop as a political figure.

In March 2013, Pope Francis reportedly told El Salvador's ambassador to the Holy See: "I hope that under this pontificate we can beatify (Archbishop Romero)."

Official notices

Bishop's calendar

- January 17, 10:00 am, Mass for Deacon Ordination of David Kane, Immaculate Conception Church, Lihue.
- January 18, Pilgrimage to Kalaupapa, Molokai in anticipation of the feast day of St. Marianne Cope.
- January 20, 9:00 am, Red Mass, Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, downtown Honolulu.
- January 21, 9:00 am, Mass for St. Marianne Cope Feast Day and Birthday, St. Francis School, Manoa.
- January 22, 10:00 am, Diocesan Department Heads, St. Stephen Diocesan Center (SSDC), Kaneohe; 7:30 pm, Ecumenical Taizé Service for Week of Prayer for Christian

Unity, Newman Center/Holy Spirit Parish, Manoa.

■ January 23, 9:00 am, Committee on the Cause of Joseph Dutton, Chancery, downtown Honolulu; 4:30 pm, Father Damien/Mother Marianne Commission, Chancery; 6:00 pm, Mass for Memorial of St. Marianne Cope, Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, downtown Honolulu.

■ January 24, 10:00 am, Mass for Deacon Ordination of Joseph Aglia, St. Joseph Church, Hilo.

■ January 25, 8:00 am, Breakfast with the Bishop, St. John Vianney Parish and School, Kailua.

■ January 27, 9:00 am, Diocesan Finance Council, Chancery; 11:30 am, Diocesan Stewardship and Development Commission, Chancery;

6:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Clergy Appreciation Night, Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki.

■ January 29, 5:30 pm, Prison Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, SSDC.

Announcements/Appointments

■ Very Reverend Johnathan Hurrell, SS.CC., Provincial of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts — United States Province, has proposed Reverend Christopher Kaitapu, SS.CC. as Parochial Vicar of St. Augustine by-the-Sea Parish, Waikiki, effective February 1, 2015. Bishop Silva has confirmed this appointment.

■ The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has authorized the formation of a new

Council to be based at St. John the Baptist Church, Kalihi. It is designated Council #16109 and will be known as the Father James "Diego" McFadden Council. Bishop Silva has appointed Father John Fredy Quintero as its Chaplain, effective immediately.

■ The following individuals have been appointed to the Diocesan Advisory Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for two-year terms, effective January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2016:

- Mary Jean Bega as representative of the Maui Vicariate.
- Joshua Kapika as representative of the Central Oahu Vicariate.
- Bobby Morris as representative of the Leeward Oahu Vicariate.

Heralding back

NEWS FROM PAGES PAST



50 years ago — Jan. 22, 1965

Left, Mr. John Savage, president of St. Francis Convent School Parent Teacher Guild presents a check for two thousand dollars to the principal, Sister M. Bonaventure, O.S.F. The money was raised by the parents and it is earmarked for the building fund.

25 years ago — Jan. 19, 1990

Bishop to ordain new priest for Hawaii and Sacred Hearts Order

Brother Edward Popish said he has been scrambling all week "caught up" in trying to cover every little detail of the ordination to the priesthood tomorrow. "I guess that's what happens when you used to be an accountant," he joked.

Brother Joseph A. Ferrario will ordain the Aspen, Colorado, native a priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts at St. Patrick Church in Kaimuki on Jan. 20 at 10 a.m.

Popish, 36, is one of an increasing number of men who have said goodbye to early professional careers to follow the call to the priesthood. To describe himself as a former accountant, however, is a bit of self-depreciation. With a masters degree in international

management his former professional life involved big league international and domestic finance and marketing for a major Colorado computer firm.

10 years ago — Jan. 14, 2005

Hawaii parishes, schools join global relief effort

With a special second collection at Masses this past weekend, parishes throughout the Diocese of Honolulu joined the massive global effort to aid the millions of victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami in Asia and Africa.

The money collected will be sent to the region through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.S. Catholic international aid organization.

According to Carol Ignacio, CRS's local representative, all parishes were asked to insert CRS emergency fact sheets and donation instructions in their Sunday bulletins.

"It is such a terrible disaster," said Ignacio, who is also the director of the diocesan Office for Social Ministry. "We have nothing to compare it to in our particular lifetime."

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Hawaii Catholic Herald

Newspaper of the Diocese of Honolulu
Founded in 1936
Published every other Friday

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HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

(ISSN-10453636) Periodical postage paid at Honolulu, Hawaii. Published every other week, 26 issues a year, by the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, 1184 Bishop Street, Honolulu, HI 96813.

ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Hawaii: \$24
Mainland: \$26
Mainland 1st class: \$40
Foreign: \$30

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:
Hawaii Catholic Herald, 1184 Bishop Street, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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Clockwise from top left: Edwin Damien Conselva prostrates himself at the altar during the Litany of Supplication; the Mass begins with a Hawaiian "oli" or chanted prayer; Bishop Larry Silva prays over Conselva during the ordination rite; La Salette Father Eugene Andaya lays hands on the new priest.

HCH photos | Darlene Dela Cruz



Hundreds fill Waipahu church for local son's ordination

By Darlene J.M. Dela Cruz
Hawaii Catholic Herald

At 7 a.m. on Jan. 3, a rainbow arced across the blue sky above St. Joseph Church in Waipahu. The storm the night before had given way to a morning of light and rejoicing, as folks gathered early at the parish to celebrate a milestone of faith for one of its native sons.

In an ancient and solemn rite, Bishop Larry Silva ordained Edwin Damien Conselva of Waipahu a priest for the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. Conselva, 49, became the first man from Hawaii ordained for the order's Philippine province. He grew up attending St. Joseph Church, which has long been administered by La Salette priests.

His homecoming after years of seminary studies in the Philippines was an exciting occasion for the St. Joseph community. At least 700 people filled the church for the ordination Mass, many of them arriving more than two hours before its scheduled 9 a.m. start.

Conselva's ordination was scheduled to take place on the 175th anniversary of the birth of St. Damien de Veuster. At the Mass, a painting of St. Damien was placed in the sanctuary with a statue of Our Lady of La Salette.

La Salette Father Efrén Tomas, St. Joseph's pastor, introduced the liturgy by explaining the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The ordination rite, he told the congre-

gation, is intended to impart on the candidate the "threefold mission of a priest" — a shepherd, evangelizer and teacher of God's people.

The entrance procession opened with a Hawaiian "oli," or chanted prayer. A unit of Knights of Columbus walked ahead of Bishop Silva, the liturgy's presider, to the altar. Concelebrating with the bishop were about 30 priests. Several deacons assisted.

Visiting clergy included La Salette provincial superior Father Rosanno Soriano and La Salette priests from the Philippines. La Salette Father Joven "JoJo" Junio, a former pastor of St. Joseph and a close friend of Conselva, flew in from California for the ceremony as well.

The ordination rite began after the Liturgy of the Word, with Bishop Silva calling Conselva forward as a candidate for the priesthood. The congregation assented to his worthiness for ordination by responding, "Thanks be to God."

In his homily, Bishop Silva spoke about Conselva's "new identity" as a priest. His duty, the bishop noted, will be to "lay down his life at the altar," just as Jesus did for his people.

St. Damien, the bishop said, exemplified that kind of selfless priestly service. He gave his life to the patients suffering from leprosy in Kalaupapa, ultimately dying from the disease himself.

"Damien served the most lonely and brokenhearted," Bishop



HCH photo | Darlene Dela Cruz

La Salette Father Efrén Tomas, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Waipahu, greets the newly ordained Father Conselva.

Silva said. In his vocation, Father Conselva too, "will bring healing and glad tidings" to those entrusted to his care.

After the homily, Conselva was called forward to formally pledge his resolve to accept the responsibilities of priesthood. He responded assertively, "I do," to five questions asked by Bishop Silva.

Conselva then prostrated himself before the altar. La Salette Father Joseph Christian Pilotin, associate pastor of Christ the King Church in Kahului, Maui, intoned the Litany of Supplication. With the congregation, he called for the intercession of the saints upon the priesthood candidate.

Following the litany, Conselva knelt before Bishop Silva. The bishop silently placed his hands on Conselva's head, invoking the Holy Spirit to raise him to the order of priesthood. Each of the priests then repeated the bishop's gesture, approaching one-by-one to lay hands and pray over Conselva.

The new priest afterward was vested with a stole and chasuble. Father Conselva later went to the altar, where the bishop anointed his hands with the sacred chrism. Bread and wine were then brought in the offertory procession to the bishop, who in turn handed them to the newly ordained man for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Father Conselva was welcomed into the priesthood by his brother clergy with the "fraternal sign of peace" — an embrace often accompanied by personal words of encouragement. He blinked back tears as the congregation greeted him with applause at the end of the ordination rite.

After Communion, Father Conselva gave his first priestly blessings to Bishop Silva and La Salette provincial superior Father Soriano. He thanked everyone who made his ordination possible, particularly his late parents Frank Conselva and Flavia Salvador, as well as his extended family, parish ohana and brother La Salette priests.

He also expressed gratitude to co-workers from his previous job at Hawaiian Airlines and to friends from his hula halau.

"I just feel so blessed right now just to see you all here," Father Conselva said. "This truly is a gift from (God)."

Father Conselva noted that Father Henry Sabog, who concelebrated the Mass, is the brother-in-law of his godmother. Father Sabog was ordained at St. Joseph Church about 50 years ago.

Shortly after his ordination, Father Conselva returned to the Philippines to complete his theology degree. He is scheduled to graduate from San Carlos Seminary in Manila in March. His first assignment as a La Salette priest will be determined following the completion of his studies.



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CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHER EYMARD MCKINNON | 1925-2014

Priest served Guam, Hawaii parishes, active in charismatic movement

Capuchin Franciscan Father Eymard McKinnon, who served in Hawaii parishes in the 1990s, died on Dec. 17 in Ringwood, New Jersey. He was 89, a Franciscan for 67 years and a priest for 60 years.

His funeral was Dec. 20 at Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, New York.



Capuchin Franciscan Father Eymard McKinnon

The late Bishop Joseph A. Ferrario in 1991 appointed Bishop Father McKinnon as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Naalehu on the southern tip of the Big Island for two years.

Before that, the New York native had served in Guam for five years. He had also worked in New York, Maine and Arizona as a parish priest, a teacher and as a chaplain for the New York State Mental Health Hospital System.

Father McKinnon returned to Guam in 1993, coming back to Hawaii in 1997 to be a priest in residence and temporary associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish, Aiea, and to help out in other parishes.

Affectionately known as "Father Mac," he was very active in the charismatic renewal movement.

Father McKinnon was born in the Bronx, N.Y., on June 15, 1925. His birth name was Ronald. The date of his investiture as a Capuchin Franciscan was Sept. 16, 1947. He professed his first vows on Sept. 17, 1948, and final vows on the same day in 1951. He was ordained on June 26, 1954.

Father McKinnon's first assignment was a year as teacher and prefect at St. Mary Seminary, Garrison, N.Y. Successive assignments included vocation recruitment, pastoral associate, high school teacher and more than 10 years as a hospital chaplain in New York.

In 1974, he moved to Arizona to care for his elderly mother while serving as a parish priest in a number of churches. He returned to New York in 1984.

The Capuchin volunteered in 1988 for service in the Mariana Islands and Hawaii where he ministered in parishes for the next 16 years. He retired at St. Clare Friary, Yonkers, on Jan. 1, 2014, and was later transferred to Holy Name Friary, Ringwood, New Jersey.

He was survived by a nephew and several cousins.

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Talk story
OFFICE FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY

Beginning the new year witnessing to Jesus

As we begin our journey this new year seeking to witness to Jesus by deepening our love of God and neighbor, the feast of the Epiphany and images of the Magi remind us of the international appeal of the vulnerable child in the manger. Pope Francis' visit to the Philippines also shows us how global solidarity with victims of natural disasters manifests God's call to reach out

to those in need.

The American Catholic Church is blessed with a special organization that shares our journey of discovering Emmanuel — God with us — among the vulnerable worldwide. Catholic Relief Services is the U.S. church's international humanitarian agency. CRS carries out the commitment of the U.S. bishops "to assist the poor and

vulnerable overseas."

The bishops state: "CRS is motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching as we act to:

- Promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and,
- Serve Catholics in the United States as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, CRS works with local, national and international Catholic institu-

tions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality."

Around the world, CRS serves God manifest in our vulnerable sisters and brothers.

This year, as we begin our faith journey, we are blessed to have as the speaker for the diocesan Red Mass, 9 a.m., Jan. 20 at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, Joan Rosenhauer, the CRS executive vice president for U.S. Operations. She will "talk story" with us about how CRS helps us recognize and respond to Christ through "providing immediate relief such as food, clean water, shelter and medical care, promoting reconciliation and peace-building in

conflict areas, helping traumatized children recover, and initiating development strategies to improve the lives and livelihoods for the long term."

Before the Red Mass, she will join pilgrims to Kalaupapa, following the footsteps of St. Damien and St. Marianne in witnessing to Jesus among the most vulnerable. In addition, she will speak at various gatherings and Catholic schools around Hawaii. CRS will also share its story in videos on the diocesan website, www.catholicahawaii.org. We begin the new year grateful for these gifts in our journey together to witness to Jesus.

Mahalo,

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Park clean-up to follow.

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Registration Fee: \$25
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Registration fee includes commemorative T-shirt.

Proceeds will support St. Francis Healthcare System's Charity Care Fund, which provides financial assistance to patients so they can receive the care they need.

For a walk application or for more information, contact St. Francis Healthcare Foundation at gkaahanui@stfrancishawaii.org.

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The Parish & School

1 PEARL CITY

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish

"Prayers with sacrifice are pleasing to the Lord," said **Father Efrén Tomas** from St. Joseph Church, Waipahu, during his homily on the fifth day of **Misa de Gallo** in our parish. It was indeed a challenge to get up early for the 5 a.m. dawn Mass for nine consecutive days. Along with **Father Pascual** and **Msgr. Thaddeus Mercado**, **Bishop Larry Silva** and several priests from other parishes took turns celebrating the Misa de Gallo from Dec. 16 through Dec. 24. A fruit basket and a handcrafted parol (star-shaped lantern) were offered during the presentation of gifts in each of the nine days. Each parol was then hung inside the rear of our church. A **special choir** sang Tagalog and Ilocano Christmas carols. As early as 4 a.m., members of various ministries, spearheaded by the **Filipino Ministry**, set serving tables in our pastoral center with scrumptious breakfast dishes. We celebrated the ninth day, Christmas Eve, with gift-giving, singing, dancing and a roast pig (lechón) served at breakfast. A heartfelt thanks to all who made our Misa de Gallo celebration joyous and festive! (Reported by Bernadette V. Cabe; photo by Noni Panen)



2 WAHIAWA

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

The generous parishioners once again donated 100 gifts to the children of Maililand. Pictured are parish social ministry coordinator **Nicole Vannatta**, Catholic Charities Hawaii's **Ahbleza Florence** and **Litia Mira** and our pastor, **Sacred Hearts Father Richard McNally**. At the **Wahiawa Community and Business Association's annual Santa Parade** on Dec. 5, parishioners marched and passed out candy to the children lining the parade route along California Avenue. (Reported by Janice Vannatta and Jack Kampfer)



3 EWA

Immaculate Conception Parish

As we begin 2015, we, individually and as a church, are asked to increase our **true stewardship**. Remember, the building is not the church; we are the church! During the next several months, we will spotlight individuals/groups within our parish community. Our first individual is **Michael Esquibil**, a parishioner for the last 36 years. A social worker with a master's degree from the University of Hawaii, Michael is the chair of our **Parish Stewardship Committee**. He also lectures at weekend Masses. Michael obtained this willingness to serve from members of his family. His Mom is a eucharistic minister and his brother **Marvic** was a musician and choir leader for many years. When asked to describe what our church, parish means to him, Michael responded, "It's my home." Lastly, it's the opinion of many parishioners that Michael's true stewardship goal is to meet and greet every member of our parish community. Mahalo, Michael, for being a true example of giving your time, talent, and treasure to our church and our Lord! (Reported by Normand H.J. Robert)



4 KULA

Kula Catholic Community

Parishioners of **Our Lady Queen of Angels, Holy Ghost Church** and **St. James the Less** made the holidays a lot brighter for our Maui families in need. The holiday season started with the annual **Thanksgiving Basket** fund drive. The money raised buys food for our brothers and sisters. Pictured are the youth shopping in Costco. Immediately after Thanksgiving, the **Angel Tree** project got under way. Students in the **religious ed program** decorated approximately 190 angels. Parishioners each selected an angel, purchasing the item written on it. The **Youth Group/Confirmation students** organized the gifts and delivered them to the **Maui Economic Opportunity** organization. Mahalo to our parishioners

for the abundance of your generosity given graciously throughout the year. (Reported by Mary Jean S. Bega)

5 PUNAHOU AND MANOA

Sacred Heart and St. Pius X Parishes

We would like to acknowledge **Mr. Fidelis Lee**, choir director for our two parishes in Punahou and Manoa, on his graduation in December from **UH Manoa** in Orvis Auditorium with a B.A. in music. Fidelis has brought much joy and spiritual growth to our church in his three years as a devoted music director here. Congratulations! (Reported by Lynn Murata)

6 KALIHI KAI

St. Anthony Parish

On Nov. 30, **Loreto and Imelda**

Dela Cruz welcomed the **Pilgrim Virgin statue** into their home. Several members of the **Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Apostolate** brought the statue and joined the family in the recitation of the rosary and prayed especially for the deceased members of their family. The family thanked the Blessed Virgin on that day they welcomed her into their home with love and honor, that she may one day welcome them into their eternal home in heaven. The family had the **Triduum of Prayers**, Dec. 3-5. This visit was in preparation for the **Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** on Dec. 6. (Reported by Fe Rodillas)

7 KALIHI VALLEY

Our Lady of the Mount Parish

Christmas is not just a joyous sa-

cred event but also a whirlwind of activities and traditions. Starting with Advent, in its spirit of preparation, we had a wonderful time as a parish ohana **cleaning up the church and facilities**. The ensuing lunch fellowship was very rewarding. Then we had soul cleansing through the **communal penance** with four priest-confessors. Our solemn nine-day **Misa de Gallo** prepared us spiritually as we coupled our devotion with the sacrifice of getting up and braving the chilly mornings. The potluck of native dishes and delicacies after each Mass was made more delightful by the spirited singing of carolers. The vigil, midnight and day **Christmas Masses** were celebrated as the highlights of the season with greetings of Christ's joy and peace to all. With the onset of the New Year 2015, we prayed to the God of life and our heavenly Mother to bless our parish and its **145th anniversary celebration** this year. Before we folded the season, the **religious education children and catechists** were treated on Epiphany Sunday with visits by **Santa Claus** and the **Three Kings** with gifts galore and a hearty fellowship for all. Our parish life goes on and joins the church-wide observance of the **Year of Consecrated Life**, prays for a responsive **Synod on the Family** and continues to imbibe the **spirit of joyful stewardship** among parishioners. (Reported by Fran Kovaloff)

8 HONOLULU

Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Our **Winter Fun Fest Annual**, the altar server appreciation party on Dec. 13, honored our **67 altar servers** for their dedication and hard work in serving the various liturgies at the cathedral basilica. A big mahalo to our chaperones for making this event so special, and for the guidance and support of our rector **Father John Berger**, **Father Marvin Samiano** and **Father Gordon Combs**! (Reported by Jonathan Farinas)

9 WAIMEA

Annunciation of the Lord Parish

The **West Hawaii Vicariate** honored its **Island Treasures** on Dec. 13 at our parish. Pictured are the Annunciation and Ascension Parish treasures, from left, **Rose Hatakeyama**, **Roxanne Pung**, **Dr. Joe Triggs**, **Shermae Ambida** and **Leonard Baltz** with **Father Stephen Macedo** and **Bishop Larry Silva**. We are blessed to have them as part of our parish family. Congratulations! ... About 80 parishioners attended the parish's second annual **Las Posada** on Dec. 22 organized by the parish Hispanic community. Los Posadas, or "the inns," is traditionally a nine-day evening celebration symbolizing the journey of Mary and Joseph to find lodging. Parishioners and musicians sang the "Las Posada" song in front of closed doors at the church, the rectory and the parish hall where they were finally allowed in. They celebrated with a feast of enchiladas, tostadas, tamales, malasadas and hot-spiced cider. ... Children from the parish **religious education**

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program participated wonderfully at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, as choir members, lectors, ushers and greeters. (Reported by Mary Erickson, Lisa Dahm and Gloria Bala)

10 KAHULUI Christ the King Parish

The parish Youth Ministry presented "The Greatest Gift/Christmas Musical Showcase" on Dec. 19 in the church with special participation by associate pastor **Father Joseph Pilotin** as the **Christmas Angel**. "Service to Christ and his people this Christmas will not be rewarded with a box covered in bows and ribbons, but with God's greatest gift: JESUS," said **Paris Sensano**, director, producer and choreographer. Often, Christmas gifts are the result of a specific request; but not so with God's gift to us. God's gift is unsolicited. We did not see our own need and ask for God's help; God foresaw our need and sent his son to be the conciliation for our sins. "Praise God for the greatest gift we could ever receive: our Lord Jesus who gifted us everlasting life!" said youth and young adult ministers **Albert and Bobbie Sensano**. Thank you, **Father Adondee** and Father Joseph; music minister **Frank Chargualaf**, Paris Sensano, youth and their parents, and to all who attended the showcase including **Bishop Larry Silva**. (Reported by Audie Pascual)



11 MOLOKAI St. Damien Parish

Members of Molokai's **Sacred Hearts Congregation** gathered here for a group photo this fall. Pictured, from left, are, **Brother Charles Ka'anui**, groundskeeper for the parish cemeteries and four churches; **Father William F. Petrie**, pastor; **Father Michael Kelly**, priest in residence; **Father Patrick Killilea**, pastor in Kalaupapa; **Sister Herman Aki**, parish religious education teacher; **Sister Jessie Kai**, religious education teacher and parish office assistant; **Sister Christine Plateros**, religious education music leader and teacher. The parishioners of the St. Damien (topside) and the St. Francis (Kalaupapa) and members of our island community are most grateful to the Sacred Hearts Community for their dedicated service to the faithful, the island people, the patients and the visitors to our island. Through them, we continue to tell the stories of the selfless service of **St. Damien, St. Marianne and Brother Dutton**. (Reported by Maria Sullivan)



12 HONOLULU Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa

Many parishioners wore Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Filipino and Micronesian ethnic attire when the community gathered to give their appreciation to God at **Thanksgiving Mass**. **Father Gregorio Honorio Jr.** was the celebrant. **Deacon Roy Matsuo** read the Gospel. **Father Sydney Fernandez** talked about how we should count our blessings and be grateful for the basic necessities we have in our country, as many other people in the world do not

have them. Also he said that we should say "thank you" with a grateful heart because sometimes we say it but do not really mean it. The prayers of the faithful were said in different languages, including Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Micronesian and Hawaiian. Before the Mass concluded, several of the St. Theresa students did a hula dance. (Reported by Eric Boloson)

**13 MAUI
St. Gabriel Mission**
The small Catholic community of **Our Lady of Fatima** in Ke-

anae gathered 35 parishioners for Thanksgiving Mass. **Father Leonard Sempijja's** homily focused on giving God thanks, honor and praises for all our blessings. All who attended provided a beautiful Thanksgiving luncheon that followed. (Reported by the parish)

**14 PAPAIOU
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**
On Nov. 13, after the monthly Ilocano Mass, the parish's **Filipino Catholic Club** hosted in the parish hall the annual island-wide **Queen of Charity Coronation** sponsored by the **Hawaii Coun-**

cil of Filipino Catholic Clubs. Those attending enjoyed fellowship and a variety of delicious food. Our FCC created the fabulous decorations. From our parish, **Ale'ah Gapo** was crowned Queen of Charity and **Jessica Valdez** was crowned Princess of Hope. **Celena Molina** from St. Michael Parish, Kailua-Kona, was crowned Princess of Faith. Congratulations to the FCC's Hawaii Council and our parish FCC for a very successful venture. Pictured on the floor, from left, **Gabriel Bala, Celena Molina, Jessica Valdez** and **Charles Fernandez**. On stage,



from left, **Father Rufino Jose Gepiga, Queen Ale'ah Gapo**, last year's **Queen Dominica Claravall** and **Roger Ragpa**. ... The **High School Youth and Young Adults Ministry**, with donations from parishioners, put together 10 baskets of canned goods and treats which were delivered to the homebound of the parish for Thanksgiving. ... During the Nov. 22-23 weekend, the delegates going to the **LA Religious Congress** in March held a very successful **Christmas bazaar** in the parish hall with baked goods, a food concession and craft vendors selling their wares. It was their last fundraiser to help defray the cost of their trip. (Reported by Pat Phillips; photo by Hermenia Villanueva)

15 HAIKU St. Rita Parish

Following Dec. 14 Sunday Mass, parish families visited **Kula Hospital** bringing Christmas joy to the patients. Christmas caroling and wishing the patients a Merry Christmas brought smiles to their faces and happiness to the hearts of all. The **religious education children** presented the patients with Christmas cards they made in their classrooms. The patients also received paper teapots with tea and cookies made by **Robin Weeks**. Afterward the parishioners enjoyed lunch, fellowship and fun at Keokea Park. This is an annual event for our parish members and Kula Hospital. Pictured are **Debbie Faborito** and **Sandy Silva** leading the caroling. (Reported by Esther Yap)

16 PAHOA Sacred Heart Parish

The **Christmas Giving Tree** continued to amaze. Numerous families received donations of food for the holiday season thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. Mahalo to **Sally Ganiron** for your compassion for our brothers and sisters in need. ... Mahalos to the many who made our **Christmas fair** on Dec. 6 a financial success. The bake sale, auction and plate lunches provided the parish with one food and outstanding fellowship for all involved... The **religious education students** performed a "**Christmas Play**" Dec. 21 in Avery Hall after the 10:30 Mass. ... Pictured are members of the **religious education program** get ready to march in the **Pahoa Christmas Parade** on Dec. 6. (Reported by Richard Robbins)

17 KAILUA-KONA St. Michael Parish

Our parish **Island Treasures** were honored Dec. 13 at Annunciation Church in Waimea. **Bishop Larry Silva** presided over the West Hawaii Vicariate Mass celebration/luncheon. Pictured with **Father Konelio "Lio" Faletoi** and Bishop Silva are the honorees, from left, **Renee-Mae Ota, Carole Shultz, Keolani Keawe, Alana Yamamoto, Beth Bartell, Doris and Henry Grace, Sharmayne Naone, Kathy and Robert Leopoldino, George "Fritz" Warren** and **Bonnie Miki**. (Missing are **Teresa "TJ" Moses, Lucia Uganiza** and

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Rene Lemus. These individuals have served their parish well in a variety of ministries over the years and each has given unselfishly of their time, talent and treasure. (Reported by Sharmayne Naone)

**18 MAKAWAO
St. Joseph Parish**

The **Epiphany** was joyfully celebrated with a **Three Kings play** in which children of St. Joseph, St. Rita and Holy Ghost parishes reenacted the miraculous birth of Christ. The Magi offered their gifts to baby Jesus and then answered questions from the children who were eager to know what the camels ate on the long journey to find Jesus, among other things. The Kings accepted letters from the children with their hopes for the coming year, gave blessings to young and old, shared their chocolate "gold" coins and, most importantly, reminded everyone to keep seeking Jesus. The event was filled with a delightful sense of wonder thanks to the Kings, **Father Leonard Ssempijja** (pastor of St. Rita), **Father Cristiano Braz** (from London, serving in Texas) and parishioner **Michael Buxbaum**, play coordinator **Sandra Silva** and members of the **Neo-catechumenal Way**. (Reported by Christina Gonzalez)



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all of the various **programs and liturgies** celebrated these past weeks and ask God to bless each and everyone for their stewardship of time, talent and treasure! Pictured is the **Nativity display** in our church. Here's looking forward to more stories in the New Year! God's blessings and Happy New Year! (Reported by Chantal A. Duarte)

**22 EWA BEACH
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School**

Happy Anniversary! Our school celebrated its **47th anniversary** with a **spaghetti dinner** on Nov. 21. The **kindergarten class** was one of many groups who enthusiastically entertained throughout the night. Their performance of "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart," created a comfortable, family-like atmosphere that set the tone for the entire festivities. With the help of **Bravo's** restaurant, proceeds from the delicious dinner will fund the school's technology program and other school projects "educating for life." May our school continue to serve the Ewa Beach community and share God's love for many more years to come! (Reported by Tracy Spencer; photo by Fred Ponce)



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

**KALAUAPAPA
St. Francis Parish**

Joy to the world! It was some minutes after 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We had just celebrated our first Christmas Mass in company with our sisters and brothers from our neighboring **Congregational Church**. Led by members of the **St. John Vianney Choir** from Kailua, we sang the "Hawaiian Doxology" after the blessing, and ended our Mass with a rousing chorus of "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Now it was time to gather in our parish hall, which is said to be part of St. Damien's original Kalaupapa town church. There we shared in a magnificent meal prepared by the choir members. I wish they would visit more often! The next morning, being Christmas day, we again assembled for the celebration of Mass at 9 a.m. (Reported by Father Patrick Killilea ss.cc.)



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**23 HONOLULU
Maryknoll School**

A very distinguished and high-achieving Maryknoll alumna, **Dr. Maria (Marel) Ver**, has earned a position as one of the five surgeons at **Pali Momi Medical Center**. Dr. Ver is the second female to hold a position like this at the institution. As a personal and professional dignitary, Dr. Ver kindly spoke to young Spartans at the most recent **National Junior Honor Society** ceremony in December. She is pictured here with grade school vice principal **Kristopher Kern**. After graduating from the University of Southern California, Dr. Ver received her medical degree from New York Medical College and finished her general surgery residency at the University of Illinois Chicago, Mount Sinai Hospital. We are so proud and honored to have an amazing person like her as part of the Maryknoll ohana. Congratulations and God bless, Marel! (Reported by Laura Essenberg)



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**KULIOUOU
Holy Trinity Parish**

Interested in becoming a deacon? The parish held its first of two **deacon information sessions** Jan. 13 in the parish meeting room. The second is Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. **Deacon Dan and Rita Guinaugh** are hosting. Questions? Contact Deacon Dan, 396-9726, or email drguinaugh@hawaiiintel.net. (From the parish bulletin)

with great pleasure and excitement I write my first message to all of you and at the same time I would like to encourage everyone to join the journey of life and faith. Let us make our church even more vibrant by supporting our pastoral programs to become a better stewardship community, youth and young adult welcoming community, a family-oriented community, as well as a physically healthy community. There are the challenges we might face in the coming year with the changes but I trust and hope in the Lord that we can overcome them. I know that I am not alone in this endeavor." (From the parish bulletin)

games, door prizes and fellowship. **Seventh graders** created Christmas cards. The **National Honor Society** also serenaded the residents with carols on Dec. 16, right after final exams. Pictured is eighth grade ACTION TEAM captain **Tatiana Martinez** helping a Hale Makua guest in a holiday game. (Reported by Art Fillazar)

**HONOLULU
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish**

We are currently re-booting our **Youth Ministry Program**. We are looking for adults and teens willing to assist us in the New Year. Please contact the office in normal business hours if you are interested in being a part of our new leadership team for 2015. There will be more announcements in the future! Have a blessed New Year! (From the parish bulletin)

**20 PEARL CITY
Our Lady of Good Counsel School**

Our school kicked off the blessed holiday season with our **Advent Program**, Dec. 5. Students in **preschool-3 through eighth grade** treated friends and family to beautiful songs honoring our Savior's birth. The children look forward to this yearly event, especially the eighth grade which has the honor of reenacting the Nativity. **Lauren Silva** and **Taylor Valdez** narrating the story of the glorious birth of Jesus. **Maxwell Spencer** portrayed the role of Joseph and **Lyndsey Sasada** played Mother Mary. First grader **John Malaki's baby brother Thaddeus** played a well-behaved baby Jesus. Also performing were **Jaycen Crisostomo, Jaydon**

Tomas and Matthew Valencia (shepherds); **Sean Kaolelopono, Jonah Kea** and **William Rapisura** (Wise Men); **Alyssa Kahiapo** and **Christa-Faith Sabangan** (angels); **Holly Ann Fernandez** (innkeeper's wife); **Isaiah Galanto** and **Richard Seaman** (prophets); **Destyn Kenui** (King Herod); **Asia Maluyo, Iwalani Segall** and **Jessica Williams** (actresses playing modern day shoppers). The costumes were each lovingly handcrafted by school staff member **Mrs. Amano** whose creativity brought each character to life. To all the students, teachers, faculty and staff who worked so hard and put on a spectacular show, a round of applause for a job well done! (Reported by Ginger Kamisugi)

**24 KALIHI
St. Anthony School**

Our school believes in sharing time, talents and treasure in our community as our way of thanking God for all his blessings. **Our first community service** for the school year, the weekend after Thanksgiving Day, was well attended by our **St. Paul sisters, students, parents and alumni**. We visited the residents of **Maunalani Nursing Center**. We prepared song numbers and hula, much to the delight of the residents and staff. Thank you, St. Anthony families for sharing your musical and dancing talents. (Reported by Tess Reyes)

**WAIALUA
St. Michael Parish**

The new pastor, **Sacred Hearts Father Lusius Nimu**, writes in the Jan. 4 parish bulletin: "As we welcome the New Year 2015, it is

**25 KAILUA
St. Anthony School**

A week before the Christmas break, our school's **Safe and Caring Families** got together for a special holiday activity. The Safe and Caring Families are made up of one or two students from kindergarten through eighth grade, led by an eighth grader and mentored by a teacher. This year they wanted to bring some **cheer to the housebound**. The students

made decorative ornaments that were placed on wreaths that were distributed throughout the parish. The wreaths brought joy and happiness to those unable to go out and share in the holiday festivities. The recipients were especially impressed and appreciative that these came from the hands and hearts of children. A new year and semester has begun and the students have returned enthusiastic to get on with their studies and to share their many talents with those in need. *(Reported by Patricia Barros)*

26 HONOLULU

Sacred Hearts Academy

Students presented **Aloha United Way** with a check for \$10,700 on Dec. 4. They raised funds throughout the semester with a popular **bake sale**, gathering donations for **"Dress Down Day"** and celebrating Halloween by dressing in **Costumes for a Cause**. Lower school students collected **Coins for a Cause** to increase the contribution. Pictured are **Aina Katsikas**, lower school student council advisor **Heather Maggini-Mackay**, Aloha United Way president and CEO **Cindy Adams**, lower school vice principal **Reme Tam**, and **Alyse Glaser** *(Reported by Hayley Matson-Mathes)*



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27 HONOLULU

Holy Family Catholic Academy

The school **robotics team** earned the opportunity to compete in **Hawaii FIRST LEGO League (FLL) State Championship 2014** held Dec. 13 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. The team, eighth graders **Clarissa De Smet**, **Mina O'Reilly** and **Alex Roynon**, seventh grader **Brenden Young**, sixth grader **Jachob Dolak** and fifth grader **Roice Galapon**, placed 10th out of 48 participating teams. Proud of their team's strong performance, design, and core values interviews are coaches **Paul Alejo** and **Sonia McMichael**, and both middle school science teachers. This season marks the team's fourth year of competition which engages students in real-world engineering challenges and helps them learn to make positive contributions to society. *(Reported by Christina Malins; photo by Lauren Gomez)*



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28 HONOLULU

Star of the Sea Early Learning Center

Here are some of our recent fun activities. We did **pumpkin carving** on Oct. 29. All of our children enjoyed planting the pumpkin seeds after we made our jack-o-lantern. Our **Halloween parade** on Oct.31 was a great success. The children were excited to put their costumes on and walk around campus. ... **Santa** visited our school! Children were excited to take pictures with the man from the North Pole! ... Pictured are **toddlers planting** in our garden. *(Reported by Ayako Sahara and Mary Williams)*

29 KAPAA

St. Catherine School

It has been a busy November and December. We celebrated the **Feast of St. Catherine** on Nov. 25. The second graders, under the direction of **Mr. Mike Cruz**, took part in our Mass. The morning began with a procession to the church. Mass was followed by a blessing of a new painting of **St. Catherine of Alexandria**, cre-



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ated by **Mrs. Sally Harrison**, our after-school care coordinator. ... On Dec. 2, **"Ronald McDonald"** visited the kindergarten through fourth grade, teaching the values of trustworthiness, responsibility, respect and fairness. ... On Dec. 19, under the direction of **Madame Andrea Corbo**, our school presented a very unique pop culture Christmas program. It began with the **Ukulele Band and Choir**, under the direction of **Mrs. Mary Alfiler**. The kindergarten students were adorable as they presented the Nativity story. The pop culture part of the show had celebrities bringing Baby Jesus gifts such as compassion, love and family. *(Reported by Andrea Corbo)*

30 AIEA

St. Elizabeth School

Every year the **School Praise Choir** entertains in different venues throughout our community. This past holiday season, our choir was privileged to entertain for the senior citizens at the **Aiea**

Heights Rest Home. They sang and danced to a variety of Christmas carols. The residents of the facility joined the choir in singing and also playing musical instruments. This was a great experience for both the students and the seniors. *(Reported by Sharon Nagasawa)*

31 KAILUA

St. John Vianney School

Our parish is pleased to host its fifth **"Breakfast with the Bishop"** on Jan. 25, in the parish hall. A delicious buffet will be served after all three Masses, at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon, as a fundraiser for the parish school. The proceeds will be used to improve the school's facilities and for tuition assistance. **Bishop Larry Silva** will attend all three meals and will speak on the value of a Catholic education and parish schools. Our pastor **Father Thomas Gross** and principal **Caryn DeMello** will greet and thank everyone for their support. Each year pa-

rishioners, community businesses and other Catholic schools help sponsor this worthwhile event. Breakfast will be prepared by the **school's cafeteria staff** and served by teachers, parents and students. Local celebrities will flip and serve pancakes. Entertainment will be provided by the school's **hula halau** under the direction of **Jack McKeaque**, and student choirs, bands and orchestras under the direction of **Dana Arbaugh**, the school's very talented music teacher. For information or to donate to the fundraiser, contact the school at 261-4651. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$12 for students 15 and younger, and will be available until Jan. 23. *(Reported by Earl Walker)*

32 MAKAWAO

St. Joseph Early Learning Center

The students got into the spirit of holidays at the Dec. 17 **Christmas program** in the parish gymnasium. The theme was "Mele Kalikimaka ... an Island Christ-

mas." The program included a reenactment of the nativity story, and a guest appearance and accompaniment by parent and reggae artist **Marty Dread**, father of student **Charley Hennessy**. They donned their hand-made coconut Christmas tree T-shirts and hula skirts. They finished with the Hawaiian-style "Twelve Days of Christmas" which led into a delicious potluck feast. We wish all the continued joy of Christ all through the New Year. *(Reported by Helen Souza)*

33 WAIPAHU

St. Joseph School

We celebrated the **season of Advent** with weekly prayer services. Pictured is seventh grader **Thaddeus Damo** lighting the candles for the third week of Advent. *(Reported by Keala Kia)*

34 HONOLULU

St. Theresa School

Our school celebrated the **Advent season** by gathering together as a family each morning for a special prayer service. Each class had an opportunity to present a reading from the Bible and create a symbolic ornament that represented the Scripture passage. Ornaments were hung on **several Jesse trees** displayed in the school's hall, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Our entire school was able to come together as a family to prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus. The students especially enjoyed being a part of the celebration by hanging their special ornament. *(Reported by Lauren Ramirez)*

35 KALIHI

St. John the Baptist School

We would like to congratulate **Rhia Sales** and **Samantha Sebastian** who scored 100 percent on the **ECRA Writing Assessment test**, and also **Aeron Justin Bali** and **Rhesel Rivera** who scored 100 percent on their **ACRE test (Assessment of Children Religious Education)**. We are so proud of you! Keep up the awesome work. *(Reported by Ainona Petelo)*

HILO

St. Joseph Junior-Senior High School

As a response to Hawaii schools overall **decline in SAT results**, we implemented a **free SAT tutoring program** for all our high school students in 2012. Now in its second year, the free SAT program is yielding concrete benefits. "SJS has always been above state and national averages when it came to college entrance scores," says program coordinator **Dr. Nathan L. Yocum**. "But now we've moved our students into a whole new category." Juniors and seniors who took the October SAT received an average score of 1,717. As of 2013, the Hawaii state average was 1,462 and the national average was 1,497. Students can take up to 56 hours of free tutoring a year. Due to the success of the program, our school is offering free enrollment to all Catholic students on the Big Island. Said principal **Dr. Llewellyn Young**, "We are excited to share this opportunity with our Catholic ohana." SAT classes are available in September and June. For information, contact the school office at (808) 935-4935. *(Reported by Jessica Pacheco)*

Pope names 15 cardinal electors, most from global South

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Underscoring the geographical diversity of his selections, Pope Francis named 15 cardinal electors “from 14 nations of every continent, showing the inseparable link between the church of Rome and the particular churches present in the world.”

In addition to 15 new electors, Pope Francis named five new cardinals who are over the age of 80 and, therefore, ineligible to vote in a conclave. Popes have used such nominations to honor churchmen for their scholarship or other contributions.

The pope announced the names Jan. 4, after praying the Angelus with a crowd in St. Peter’s Square, and said he would formally induct the men into the College of Cardinals Feb. 14.

With the list, the pope continues a movement he started with his first batch of appointments a year ago, giving gradually more representation at the highest levels of the church to poorer countries in the global South. According to the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the new cardinals will include the first in history from Cape Verde, Tonga and Myanmar.

The Feb. 14 consistory will bring the total number of cardinals under the age of 80 to 125. Until they reach their 80th birthdays, cardinals are eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. Blessed Paul VI limited the number of electors to 120, but later popes have sometimes exceeded that limit.

Three of the new cardinal electors hail from Asia, three from Latin America, two from Africa and two from Oceania.

Of the five Europeans on the list, three lead dioceses in Italy and Spain that have not traditionally had cardinals as bishops — another sign of Pope Francis’ willingness to break precedent. While giving red hats to the archbishops of Ancona-Osimo and Agrigento, Italy, the pope will once again pass over the leaders of Venice and Turin, both historically more prestigious dioceses.

None of the new cardinals hails from the U.S. or Canada. Father Lombardi noted that the numbers of cardinals from those countries have remained stable since February 2014, when Pope Francis elevated the archbishop of Quebec. The U.S. currently has 11 cardinal electors and Canada 3.

The continuing geographic shift is incremental in nature. With the new appointments, cardinals from Europe and North America will make up 56.8 percent of those eligible to elect the next pope, down from 60 percent on Jan. 4.

The shift reflects the pope’s emphasis on Africa and Asia, where the church is growing fastest, and on his native region of Latin America, home to about 40 percent of the world’s Catholics.

A number of the selections also reflect Pope Francis’ emphasis on social justice. The new Mexican cardinal leads a diocese that has been hard hit by the current wave of drug-related violence in his country.

And one of the Italian cardinals-designate, the archbishop of Agrigento in Sicily, leads the Italian



bishops’ commission on migration, an issue on which Pope Francis has placed particular importance. In July 2013, the pope visited the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, a major entry point for undocumented immigrants to Europe, and mourned the many who had died attempting to cross the sea.

Only one of the new cardinals, the head of the Vatican’s highest court, is a member of the church’s central administration, the Roman Curia, which currently accounts for about a quarter of all cardinal electors.

Announcing the appointments, Pope Francis noted that the ceremony to induct the new cardinals will follow a two-day meeting of the entire college, Feb. 12 and 13, “to reflect on guidelines and proposals for reform of the Roman Curia.”

The pope’s nine-member Council of Cardinals is currently working on a major reform of the Vatican bureaucracy, including a new apostolic constitution for the curia.

Pope Francis said he had chosen to honor five retired bishops “distinguished for their pastoral charity in service to the Holy See and the church,” representing “so many bishops who, with the same pastoral solicitude, have given testimony of love for Christ and the people of God, whether in particular churches, the Roman Curia or the diplomatic service of the Holy See.”

The five new honorary cardinals hail from Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Italy and Mozambique.

Here is the list of the new cardinals:

- French Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, prefect of the Apostolic Signature, 62.
- Portuguese Patriarch Manuel Jose Macario do Nascimento Clemente of Lisbon, 66.
- Ethiopian Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa, 66.
- New Zealand Archbishop John Dew of Wellington, 66.
- Vietnamese Archbishop Pierre Nguyen Van Nhon of Hanoi, 76.
- Mexican Archbishop Alberto Suarez Inda of Morelia, who turns 76 Jan. 30.
- Myanmar Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon, 66.
- Thai Archbishop Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij of Bangkok, 65.
- Italian Archbishop Francesco Montenegro of Agrigento, 68.
- Uruguayan Archbishop Daniel Fernando Sturla Berhouet of Montevideo, 55.
- Spanish Archbishop Ricardo Blazquez Perez of Valladolid, 72.
- Spanish-born Panamanian Bishop Jose Luis Lacunza Maestrojuan of David, 70.
- Cape Verdean Bishop Arlindo Gomes Furtado of Santiago de Cabo Verde, 65.
- Tongan Bishop Soane Mafi, 53.
- Colombian Archbishop Jose de Jesus Pimiento Rodriguez, retired, of Manizales, who turns 96 Feb. 18.
- Italian Archbishop Luigi De Magistris, 88, retired pro-major penitentiary at the Vatican.
- German Archbishop Karl-Joseph Rauber, 80, a former nuncio.
- Argentine Archbishop Luis Hector Villalba, retired, of Tucuman, 80.
- Mozambican Bishop Julio Duarte Langa, retired, of Xai-Xai, 87.

Some of the cardinals-designate, clockwise from top left, Archbishop Pierre Nguyen Van Nhon of Hanoi, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa, Archbishop Ricardo Blazquez Perez of Valladolid, Archbishop Francesco Montenegro of Agrigento, Patriarch Manuel Jose Macario do Nascimento Clemente of Lisbon, Archbishop John Dew of Wellington, Archbishop Francis Xavier Kriengsak Kovithavanij of Bangkok, Archbishop Edoardo Menichelli of Ancona-Osimo.

CNS photos

Tongan cardinal-designate called a 'simple, humble' man

By Patrick Downes
Hawaii Catholic Herald

When Tonga's future cardinal came to Hawaii as a priest in 2005 for the ordination of his cousin Sacred Hearts Father Johnathan Hurrell, one of the Tongan Catholic women hosting him wanted to buy him a pair of shoes. Father Soane Patita Paini Mafi politely turned down the offer, preferring instead the sandals he was already wearing.

A few years later, now-Bishop Soane Mafi again visited Hawaii and Father Hurrell invited him to his parish in Waialua where he was parochial vicar. Celebrating a weekday Mass together, Father Hurrell was unsure of the protocol of concelebrating with a bishop. Bishop Mafi put him at ease.

"He told me that he would be my altar server," the priest said, "and he did. The small weekday congregation was delighted."

"He's a simple man," Father Hurrell said. "Very humble."

Father Hurrell, who is now the provincial superior of his congregation, spoke to his cousin shortly after Pope Francis' Jan. 4 announcement that he would be among the church's newest group of cardinals. He said the bishop told him he was awakened that day at 4 a.m. by his brother in San Francisco who gave him the exciting news.

According to Father Hurrell, Bishop Mafi told his brother that he was mistaken and went back to sleep.

In the morning, discovering that his brother was correct, he "quietly cried," Father Hurrell said.

"He's very warm, genuine, very real," he said.

Bishop Mafi's father and Father Hurrell's grandmother are brother and sister, making the cardinal-designate a first cousin of Father Hurrell's father, and the "first cousin once removed" of Father Hurrell.

Father Hurrell, himself a quarter Tongan plus a mix of European nationalities and Chinese, was born in New Zealand but spent about 15 years of his youth in Tonga.

Father Hurrell said that he and



HCH file photos

Above, Bishop Soane Mafi during a pastoral visit to Hawaii's Tongan Catholic Communities in 2011. Right, Father Mafi on the far right of a photo of Father Johnathan Hurrell's extended family visiting from New Zealand and Tonga for this ordination in St. Patrick Church in Kaimuki in 2005.



the future cardinal, who is four years older and one of five brothers and one sister, grew up together and were probably considered the least likely in the family to become priests. "We were the most rascal of the kids," he said.

As a bishop, Father Hurrell said his cousin "is encouraging, supportive and a mighty preacher."

He also has a great sense of humor.

"He loves to laugh," the Sacred Hearts priest said.

Bishop Mafi was born in the Tongan capitol of Nuku'alofa on Dec. 19, 1961, the son and grandson of catechists. According to a recent Catholic News Service story, he joined a parish youth group growing up in the settlement of Kololo'ou, near the capital, on the main island of Tongatapu.

He studied at the Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva, Fiji.

Ordained a priest on June 29, 1991, he spent four years at Ha'apai parish on an outer island. In 1995, he became vicar general.

In an interview with Catholic San Francisco in 2008, Bishop Mafi said his bishop sent him for three years of study at then-Loyola College in Baltimore. After he graduated in 2000, he returned to

Fiji to join a formation team training local priests.

Father Mafi was named coadjutor (successor) bishop of Tonga on Oct. 4, 2007, and Bishop of Tonga and Niue on April 18, 2008, the first Tongan diocesan priest to be named a bishop.

He told Catholic San Francisco that, at the time, he was both eager and apprehensive about being the bishop, "because I want to be myself."

"It's kind of a mixed feeling, excited but at the same time overwhelming," he said. "Now I belong to everybody."

He will be elevated to the rank of cardinal, a first for Tonga, by Pope Francis at a consistory at the Vatican on Feb. 14.

Father Hurrell said he believes the message the pope is giving with this choice was that "the little ones matter."

Pope Francis picked a second Pacific island churchman to become a cardinal next month, Archbishop John Dew of Wellington, New Zealand.

In a statement, Cardinal-designate Dew said he was delighted that Bishop Mafi also had been named.

"Together it is not only great

news for New Zealand and Tonga, but for the Oceania region," he said.

"Although we are geographically far from much of the world, Pope Francis has gone to the periphery of the world to name new cardinals," Archbishop Dew said.

The Tongan bishop is the current president of CEPAC, the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific. "He is very well respected by his brother bishops," said Father Hurrell.

With only about 15,000 Catholics, the Diocese of Tonga is the size of some American parishes. At 53, Bishop Mafi will be the youngest of the 120-plus-member college of cardinals.

Tonga is a constitutional monarchy made up of 176 islands, of which about 50 are inhabited, spread across 270,000 square miles of ocean. The people speak Tongan and English.

The country lies about 3,000 miles southwest of Hawaii.

In 2012, Bishop Mafi invited the Sacred Hearts Fathers and Brothers to send missionaries to Tonga. Hawaii-born Father Clyde Guerreiro and several other Sacred Hearts priests set up a mission in Nuku'alofa in 2013.

"It's about a 6-7-hour plane ride" from Hawaii, Father Guerreiro told the Hawaii Catholic Herald in an interview two years ago. "You can't go directly. You have to go through Fiji or go to New Zealand and 'backpaddle.'"

He described Nuku'alofa as an "overgrown Kaunakakai" or a "smaller Lihue."

The country's prominent religion is Protestant. Catholics make up around 13 percent of the population.

Sacred Hearts Father Lane Akiona, chaplain for Hawaii's 150-200-member Tongan Catholic Community, said the group was "surprised" and "very happy" at the unexpected appointment.

Many of Hawaii's Tongan Catholics know the bishop personally, he said. "This is a high honor for them."

Father Akiona, who is pastor of St. Augustine Church in Waikiki where Tongan Catholics celebrate a weekly Sunday Mass, described the cardinal-designate as "down to earth" and "humble."

In 2011, for a few weeks in May and June, Bishop Mafi and three staff members paid a pastoral visit to Tongan Catholics on Kauai, the Big Island, Maui and Oahu.

Numbers move toward greater representation

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A pope's impact on the College of Cardinals is naturally discussed after his death when his nominees and those of his predecessors enter the Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope.

Voting in a conclave is the heaviest and most visible responsibility that comes with a red hat, but those under the age of 80 — the cardinal's retirement age — also influence the work of the offices of the Roman Curia and serve as special papal advisers.

Along with a red biretta and the assignment of a "titular" church in Rome, new cardinals are appointed members of Vatican congregations, councils, commissions and secretariats; they are not simply advisers to those offices, but full members whose vote is needed for the most important decisions and documents

issued by each office.

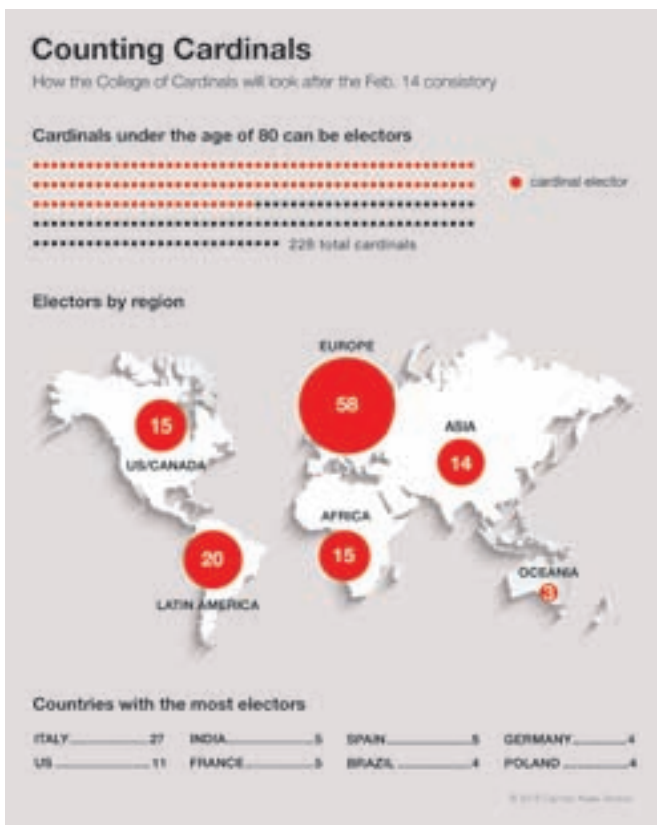
The statistical impact of Pope Francis' choices for new members of the College of Cardinals will be small, but significant.

The expanded group of cardinals eligible to elect a pope — all those under the age of 80 — will include a lower percentage of Europeans, a slightly lower percentage of Italians, a lower percentage from the United States and a higher percentage of cardinals who head dioceses rather than offices of the Roman Curia.

After the new cardinals are created Feb. 14, the college will have 125 members under the age of 80 and, therefore, eligible to vote in a future conclave. The total number of cardinals will rise to 228 — a record-breaking number. If a papal election were held the next day, more than 45 percent of the world's cardinals — all those over the age of 80 — would be locked out of the Sistine Chapel where the conclaves are held.

Much of the reaction to Pope Francis' announcement Jan. 4 of the identities of the new cardinals focused on how they give representation in the college to Catholics in some of the most remote parts of the world — the "peripheries" the pope is always talking about. With the addition of electors from Ethiopia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Uruguay, Panama, Cape Verde and Tonga, the number of countries with electors will rise from 48 to 57.

Among the electors, the percentage of Europeans will drop to 46.4 percent from its current 48 percent. While not a huge change, it is a sign of continuing progress in making the college more representative of the church as a whole; in 1960, there were 79 members of the college and they came from only 27 countries. About 70 percent of the college at the time was made up of Europeans.





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Courtesy photo

Three Franciscan professions

Three members of Hawaii's Korean Catholic Community made their profession in the St. Clare Emerging Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of Oahu at an evening Mass in late November at St. Pius X Church, Manoa. Franciscan Father Francis Kim, visiting from New York, celebrated the liturgy with Father Jong Ki Kim and Father Woongsuk Yang, chaplains to the Korean Catholic Community at the Manoa church. Jim Doyle, regional minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in Hawaii, accepted their promises.

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Capitol rally and march for life marks Roe vs. Wade's 42th year

Hawaii's 42nd annual Rally and March for Life at the State Capitol marking the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision that resulted in abortion on demand across the country, will take place on Jan. 24, 12:30-5 p.m.

The event, sponsored by Aloha Life Advocates, will feature guest speakers, sign waving, entertainment and activities for the children.

This year's theme is "All human life, born and unborn, are precious gifts."

The keynote speaker is Sacred Hearts Father David Lupo. Other speakers include Deacon Kin Borja, president of Aloha Life Advocates, and Barbara J. Ferraro, executive director of Concerned Women of America.

"It is important to recognize and to commemorate the lives that have been lost and the families affected by abortion over the decades," said Borja in a news release. "We want to come together as a family and as a community to celebrate life for all people — from conception to natural end."

The rally's "poster child" is

two-month-old "Baby Harry," whose mother, early in her pregnancy, had been advised by her doctor to abort because his first ultrasound indicated he would have brain damage, a cleft lip and a hole in his heart.

Harry's parents refused to abort him and resolved to love and nurture him no matter what happened. Harry was born with only one functioning eye but without brain damage. His cleft lip will be repaired by surgery and the hole in his heart will correct itself in time.

Providing entertainment for the event will be Victory Outreach, the Island Praise Band, Hawaii Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, Shanita Akana and Cynthia Milles.

Children's activities include face painting, kid's bowling and a poster drawing contest.

For more information and updates on the March for Life, visit Aloha Life Advocates on Facebook, or go to www.hrtl.org and alohalifeadvocates.blogspot.com.

Aloha Life Advocates is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.



Photo courtesy of St. Francis Healthcare System

Grant presentation

Central Pacific Bank Foundation awarded the first third of a \$15,000 grant to St. Francis Healthcare System for the transformation of its Liliha campus into the St. Francis Kupuna Village, a health, wellness and social services center for Hawaii's elderly population. The grant will be paid over three years. The money will go toward a new 119-bed skilled nursing facility opening in March on the top three floors of the Sullivan Building. Pictured from left, Denis Isono, president of Central Pacific Bank Foundation; Franciscan Sister William Marie Eleniki, president of St. Francis Healthcare Foundation; Jerry Correa, St. Francis Healthcare System president and CEO; and Lawrence Rodriguez, former executive of Central Pacific Bank.

Linfield Choir to perform at three churches

The Linfield Concert Choir of Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, will perform in three Oahu Catholic churches in the first week of February. The concerts are open to the public and free, but freewill offerings are welcome. Here is the Hawaii schedule:

- Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., St Ann Church, Kaneohe
- Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of our Lady of Peace

■ Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m., Mystical Rose Oratory, Chaminade University of Honolulu

The group, which has toured every year since its formation in 1930, sings in a variety of styles. It was invited to Hawaii by Bishop Larry Silva.

The choir's Hawaii performances will include classical numbers and folk songs from New Zealand, Latvia and Hawaii. Its director is Anna Song.

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Participants in last year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity pray around the Taize cross at the Newman Center.

HCH file photo



Mary Adamski
VIEW FROM THE PEW

'Christ's love has gathered us into one'

"Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est." Don't worry, even old-time religion Catholics needn't fret about being tested on the translation from the Latin. Here it is: "Where charity and love are, God is there."

The challenge isn't in translating correctly. The test isn't even about understanding the concept. It's been said, so many times, many ways.

In the greatest commandment: Love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

In the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Down through so many centuries, what gazillions of us have failed to do with that most basic idea from the most loving rule giver is to practice it.

The Ubi Caritas prayer continues: "Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in him."

Next week, once again, crowds of earnest Christians will focus on practicing what Jesus preached. With good intentions they will gather in locations around the globe to mark The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The World Council of Churches and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity created the observance more than 100 years ago. An international group prepares text material in many languages to help grassroots folks focus prayers and dialogue on celebrating what they have in common and seeking unity. Okay, enough of the boilerplate press release material. As if local preachers of any denomination need help putting words in their mouths!

The international planners do set the theme from a Biblical story each year. This time, it is from John's Gospel, the story of the Lord's encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well, where he requested water, and then told her about the living water of God's love that gives eternal life. She got the message bigtime and dashed off to share it with everyone in her village.

The Taize model

In the past, different denominations have taken turns hosting the annual Oahu gathering, at Kawaiahao Church, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Our Lady of Peace Cathedral, the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. Last year, for a change of pace, Bishop Larry Silva invited the ecumenical crowd to the Newman Center at University of Hawaii. He was inspired by the Taize service used on Good Friday there and also offered occasionally around town at other Protestant and Catholic churches. Based on a format from the mixed Catholic and Protestant Taize monastery in France, it involves congregational participation in sung chants and meditative prayer beside a large cross.

The crowd sings: "May we each love each other with a sincere heart. As we are gathered into one body, beware lest we be divided in mind."

The service was such a hit that local planners called "hana hou" for a repeat this year. The Rev. Sam Domingo, pastor of Kilohana United Methodist Church, said, "The concept is to connect with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

"We saw how young people related, felt the wonderful spirit; it was wonderful for everyone to participate instead of being preached at." Domingo said that the typical protocol was "top heavy with top people" with leaders, bishops, administrators, conference heads of churches taking turns at the pulpit.

"Taize is good, we get outside our own worship pattern," said the Rev. Charles Buck, Hawaii conference minister of the United Church of Christ. "People loved it so much we decided to do it again."

Buck said the annual observance "embodies what unity could be. In prayer intercessions, we lift up people and issues around the world. You know others around the world are doing the same. It brings us together." He said the timing is "meaningful, coming at the start of a new year, between Advent and Lent." He and Domingo are with the Hawaii Council of Churches board that will underwrite the reception to follow the 7:30 p.m. service on Jan. 22.

'All flavors of Christian faith'

The Rev. Dan Chun, senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, said the Taize tradition "has brought people from all flavors of Christian faith together, the songs are the epitome of unity. My lifelong dream is that Christians can get together in understanding." He practices what he preaches. The minister and his wife Pam founded Hawaiian Islands Ministries which brings dozens of famous and not so famous speakers and authors to Honolulu for an annual conglomeration of talks and workshops. It's the 34th year for the event which will be March 19, 20, 21 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Father Philip Chircop, a Jesuit priest, author and retreat leader from Malta, is one of dozens of speakers whose information and schedules are on himonline.org.

The Samaritan woman is "a metaphor for our differences," said Orthodox Christian Bishop Randolph Sykes. Gospel accounts, such as the familiar Good Samaritan story, underscore that they were a sect separated by differences in belief from the Jews of Jesus' time, yet Jesus used them as a message of inclusiveness and faith.

"What it says to me is that we are continuing on the road together. We need to educate ourselves about our own spirituality and we need to develop an under-

standing of what is important to others," said the bishop. "Our core principles are the same, we have the same message, but there are differences in vocabulary, approach and in each (branch of Christianity) doctrinal, moral, some cultural overlays."

"Beware lest we be divided in mind. Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease," the Ubi Caritas prayer continues.

Just contemplating the differences that exist between the people who will be sitting side by side at Newman Center next week made me think of a recent conversation with another member of an Orthodox church in Honolulu in which he rattled off a series of dates: 325, 1053, 1517. I had to search the rusty memory bank from History of Christianity 101 to recognize them as dates of some of the great Schisms. But he had at the tip of his tongue, those ancient warps on the timeline of our faith.

Readers, go ahead and look them up if you want; they are so not the point here.

Sykes, president of the Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii, has attended the Good Friday Taize service at Newman Center and had an experience he shares. His black Orthodox vestments singled him out. A small boy tapped his arm and asked what his religion he is. Sykes said, "He told me I didn't belong there, it was just for Catholics." May that kid's parents please bring him back next week for a new perspective on the crowd of Christians.

Retired Chaminade University English professor Jon James, a key planner of the event, offered the wisdom from one of the annual retreats he makes at the French monastery. "The key to unity is 'memory forgiveness.' We don't relive the history of Christianity and focus on differences that separated us. We all need both a vertical perspective, our connection with God, and a horizontal perspective, our connection with others."

Let us sing to the end of the song: "May Christ Our God be in our midst. And may we, with the saints, also see Thy face in glory, O Christ Our Lord. Unto the ages, through infinite ages. Amen."

Taize Prayer around the Cross for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 7:30 p.m., Jan. 22, Newman Center at the University of Hawaii-Manoa



Msgr. Owen F. Campion
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The only way to true life and joy

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42

The First Book of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Originally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into two, and so two volumes appear in Bible translations today.

As the title of these books implies, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active centuries before Christ.

Prophets were highly revered throughout the history of the Chosen People. They were seen as God's special representatives, and personally very holy and devoted to God. At times, prophets initially resisted their calling. Such was the case of the great ones: Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. After all was said and done, they accommodated themselves to God's will and accepted the call to be prophets.

These figures were admired because the prophet's calling was seen precisely as a call, as a summons, as a commission from God, and an empowerment and emboldening.

In this weekend's reading, God calls Samuel. It occurs according to God's plan. Samuel is open to hearing God, indeed ready to hear God, but Samuel cannot hurry the divine plan.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading for this weekend. Many of the Pauline writings are lustrous in their clear revelation of the bond between true believers and Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God, but also human, in a mystery theologians call the Incarnation. The Incarnation is a great, fundamental and essential fact of Christian belief.

In this belief, committed Christians, in faith and baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, both in a shared human nature, but also in the divine life given believers by Christ.

This supernatural bond, the very keystone of personal salvation, requires Christians not only to be spiritually faithful but faithful in every sense of their lives. They must reject carnal sin.

Stressing this point to the Christian Corinthians seems for some to be excessive for Paul, but it should be remembered, Corinth was known near and far as a virtual capital of lewdness and vice.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the decision to follow Jesus by Simon, later known as Peter, and Simon's brother Andrew. In the story, Jesus intrigues the two. The brothers recognize Jesus as Messiah. They thirst for salvation with its peace and promise. Jesus calls them, and they follow.

To indicate their new lives, Jesus gives Simon a new name, Cephas, that is often translated as Peter.

Reflection
The church, in the majesty and glory of its liturgy, called us all to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas, revealing to us that Jesus was the son of Mary, therefore a human, as she was only human despite her unique holiness and singular place in the divine plan of redemption.

Two weeks later, it celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, revealing then to us the fact that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was divine, the Son of God, and that redemption is God's gift for all people.

So the church, with the greatest joy and hope, has told us about the Lord. He is the Savior of the world! The son of Mary, Jesus is one of us!

The church tells us that we are being touched by God's grace. God loves us. God calls us. He offers us eternal life in Christ. The church now asks us, hearing these readings and celebrating these feasts, to ask ourselves what does Christ truly mean to each of us?

How should we react to the Lord? St. Paul gives very concrete advice. Samuel, Peter, and Andrew are examples. We must follow Christ, the only way to find true life and joy.

Catechesis



Father Kenneth Doyle
QUESTION CORNER

Did the pope say you didn't have to believe in God?

Q I am on Facebook, and I find it a good way to connect with family and friends. I know that some of what I read on Facebook is reliable, but some is not. Recently I read that Pope Francis said the following: "It is not necessary to believe in God to be a good person. In a way, the traditional notion of God is outdated. One can be spiritual but not religious. It is not necessary to go to church ... for many, nature can be a church. Some of the best people in history did not believe in God, while some of the worst deeds were done in his name." That strikes me as a strange quote to be coming from the pope. Can you confirm for me whether he actually said it? (Philadelphia)

A I have never seen the quote that your Facebook friend attributes to Pope Francis and I cannot believe, in particular, he would say that "the traditional notion of God is outdated" or that "it is not necessary to go to church."

I imagine this Facebook quote is a "gloss," a fanciful expansion of two things that Pope Francis actually did say. In a homily in May 2013, Pope Francis told morning worshippers at the Vatican that "the

Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone." To which he added: "Even the atheists."

Following that, in September 2013, in a letter published in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, as to whether the God of Christians can forgive unbelievers, Pope Francis wrote: "Given that ... God's mercy has no limits if he who asks for mercy does so in contrition and with a sincere heart, the issue for

those who do not believe in God is in obeying their own conscience."

Note that the pope did not say salvation is automatic: The opportunity for salvation (for anyone, including atheists) comes through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ -- but to achieve that salvation, effort and sincerity of heart are required.

Although these two papal quotes were sensationalized by some in the secular media as breaking new theological ground, they were simply restatements of what is solid Catholic belief.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 847), quoting the Second Vatican Council document "Lumen Gentium," states: "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by his grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience -- those too may attain eternal salvation."

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk
MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Esteeming our elders

Occasionally we hear disturbing stories in the media about young people who perpetrate abuse against the elderly. In a widely reported 2009 story, for example, caretakers at the Quadrangle Assisted Living facility outside Philadelphia were charged in connection with the abuse of an elderly patient named Lois McCallister. Three employees, aged 19, 21 and 22, were caught on a surveillance camera as they taunted, mocked and assaulted the partially naked 78 year old woman.

She had begun complaining to visiting family members several months prior that someone was hurting her and hitting her. There was also bruising on her hand and wrist. After bringing the bruises to the attention of the nursing home's administrators, the family was informed that the allegations were unfounded, that the accusations were the result of the patient's advancing dementia. Family members suspected there was more to it and clandestinely installed the video camera, hidden in a clock in the victim's room.

As a consequence of the abuse, the Department of Public Welfare revoked the license for the facility, and the family filed a civil lawsuit against the parent company.

A tragic event like this leads to intense questioning about how these young people, charged with the care of the older generation, could become so callous, inhuman and brutal. What can be done to pre-

vent this kind of "inter-generational disconnect" from occurring in the future? And what can be done to build up unity and respect between generations?

A nearly universal point of reference over the years, and a counsel of incalculable worth, has been the injunction enshrined in the Decalogue: Honor your father and mother. The Book of Sirach offers similarly sage advice: "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins ..."

In a sense, it is precisely the weakness and vulnerability of the elderly that beckons us to manifest a greater respect toward them, and never to mistreat them in the strength of youth. St. John Paul II beautifully summed it up in his 1999 Letter to the Elderly: "the signs of human frailty which are clearly connected with advanced age become a summons to the mutual dependence and indispensable solidarity which link the different generations." Compassionately attending to the needs of the elderly draws the generations together and builds solidarity.

When the unique gifts of the elderly are invested and shared with the younger generation, this, too, builds up solidarity. Elderly people help us see human affairs with a sense of perspective tempered by experience, reflection and wisdom.

Whenever grandparents contribute to the raising and formation of the grandchildren, even by doing something as simple as teaching them how to pray and think about God, they strengthen inter-generational ties and build family unity.

We can foster intergenerational care and support in other simple ways as well, for example, through conscientious parenting, including small but important steps such as insisting on meal time together as a family (which builds mutual respect and concern for others); teaching compassion by visiting sick or elderly neighbors together; teaching children to welcome all human life, even when weak or handicapped; praying together as a family; decreasing media time and guarding against violent computer/video games, pornography and other practices that dehumanize people and make them objects to be manipulated.

As we build bridges across generations and work to construct a society that esteems its elders, we build up homes and communities liberated from the threat of abuse or neglect — places of safety, mutual support and love, even as the hairs on our heads turn gray and our strength wanes.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

Spiritual life



Father Ron Rolheiser

The Visitation revisited

We are all familiar with the biblical story of the Visitation. It happens at the beginning of Luke's Gospel. Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, both pregnant, meet. One is carrying Jesus and the other is carrying John the Baptist. The Gospels want us to recognize that both these pregnancies are biologically impossible; one is a virginal conception and the other is a conception that occurs far beyond someone's childbearing years. So there is clearly something of the divine in each. In simple language, each woman is carrying a special gift from heaven and each is carrying a part of the divine promise that will one day establish God's peace on this earth.

But neither Mary nor Elizabeth, much less anyone around them, consciously recognizes the divine connection between the two children they are carrying. The Gospels present them to us as "cousins," both the children and their mothers; but the Gospels want us to think deeper than biology. They are cousins in the same way that Christ, and those things that are also of the divine, are cousins. This, among other things, is what is contained in the concept of the Visitation.

Mary and Elizabeth meet, both are pregnant with the divine. Each is carrying a child from heaven, one is carrying Christ and the other is carrying a unique prophet, the "cousin" of the Christ. And a curious thing happens when they meet. Christ's cousin, inside his mother, without explicit consciousness, leaps for joy in the presence of Christ and that reaction releases the Magnificat inside of the one carrying Christ.

There's a lot in that image. Christian de Cherge, the Trappist abbot who was martyred in Algeria in 1996, suggests that, among other things, this image is the key to how we, as Christians, are meant to meet other religions in the world. He sees the image as illustrating this paradigm:

Christianity is carrying Christ

and other religions are also carrying something divine, a divine "cousin," one who points to Christ. But all of this is unconscious; we do not really grasp the bond, the connection, between what we are carrying and what the other is carrying. But we will recognize their kinship, however unconsciously, when we stand before another who does not share our Christian faith but is sincere and true to his or her own faith.

In that encounter we will sense the connection: What we are carrying will make something leap for joy inside the other and that reaction will help draw the Magnificat out of us and, like Mary, we will want to stay with that other for mutual support.

And we need that support, as does the other. As Christian de Cherge puts it: "We know that those whom we have come to meet are like Elizabeth: they are bearers of a message that comes from God. Our church does not tell us and does not know what the exact bond is between the Good News we bear and the message that gives life to the other. ... We may never know exactly what that bond is, but we do know that the other is also a bearer of a message that comes from God. So what should we do? What does witness consist in? What about mis-

sion? ... See, when Mary arrives, it is Elizabeth who speaks first. Or did she? ... For most certainly Mary would have said: 'Peace, peace be with you.' And this simple greeting made something vibrate, someone, inside of Elizabeth. And in this vibration, something was said. ... Which is the Good News, not the whole of the Good News, but what can be glimpsed of it in the moment."

De Cherge then adds this comment: "In the end, if we are attentive, if we situate our encounter with the other in the attention and the desire to meet the other, and in our need for the other and what he has to say to us, it is likely that the other is going to say something to us that will connect with what we are carrying, something that will reveal complicity with us ... allowing us to broaden our Eucharist."

We need each other, everyone on this planet, Christians and non-Christians, Jews and Muslims, Protestants and Roman Catholics, Evangelicals and Unitarians, sincere agnostics and atheists; we need each other to understand God's revelation. Nobody understands fully without the other.

Thus our interrelations with each other should not be born only out of enthusiasm for the truth we have been given, but it should issue forth too from our lack of the other. Without the other, without recognizing that the other too is carrying the divine, we will, as Christian de Cherge asserts, be unable to truly release our own Magnificat. Without each other, none of us will ever be able to pray the Eucharist "for the many."

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com. Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser.



Father John Catoir

The wisdom of Pope Francis

"Unity in necessary things, freedom in doubtful things and charity in all things": This is a time-honored principle of moral theology that will help you to understand the thinking of Pope Francis, who is very wise.

A relatively small number of Catholics have taken issue with Pope Francis in his attempt to bring more compassion and less legalism to the church and its members. Most Catholics find him refreshing and in perfect harmony with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are always those who claim to be more Catholic than the pope; they instinctively conclude that mercy is a sign of weakness and not something to be practiced. They live by a moral rigidity that borders on self-righteousness, which Pope Francis says leads to "hostile inflexibility." Their opinions are inspired more by shortsightedness than the mercy the Gospel calls us to.

God's love is his mercy. Legalism was the sin of the Pharisees; they applied the letter of the law, not the spirit. The teachings of Jesus Christ are filled with the spirit of compassion. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites because of their insensitivity and rigidity.

Stop and think about this: Did Jesus come to save only the morally upright? Or, as in the parable of the lost sheep, did he leave the 99 to find the one lost sheep? I hesitate

There are always those who claim to be more Catholic than the pope; they instinctively conclude that mercy is a sign of weakness

to call all of the lost sheep sinners because some of them are holy, living in good conscience.

Yet some of our brothers and sisters who are "lost sheep" feel rejected by the church and its people and are negatively affected by the snap judgment of others who may not know the particular circumstances of the position they find themselves in. Only God knows who the real sinners are. We do not.

Yet have we, at one time or another, been in a rush to judgment that often does others more

harm than good?

Pope Francis is a true Christ figure among us. At the end of the recent synod on the family, he warned that a few of the cardinals who were opposed to some of what he proposed should be careful not succumb to "inflexibility."

Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement and known for her lifelong service to the poor, once said that what she loved about the Catholic Church is the freedom it allows the people of God.



Pope Francis greets people during an audience Dec. 22.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

Myfaith



Kathleen T. Choi
IN LITTLE WAYS

I don't get it

Jimmy Fallon has a new daughter. For the second time, the host of the "Tonight Show" and his wife turned to artificial conception and a surrogate mother for a baby. I grieve for any couple having fertility problems, but this method of realizing their dream troubles me.

Any woman who's ever been pregnant will tell you it's an emotional roller coaster ride. Once you get on, you have little control over the experience. Hormones do their thing, and you just hang on tight. You quickly learn that an independent being is alive in you. You may be thrilled or horrified by this pregnancy, but it's clear that someone else is in there, choosing his or her own time to sleep, exercise and arrive.

Having taken that ride, how do you give this baby to someone else? I honor every mother who lovingly decides that adoption gives her baby the best possible chance in life. I'm certain those mothers never forget that child. On the other hand, I'm not sure if agreeing to carry someone else's child for nine months is incredibly kind or incredibly callous. At least, though, it's a decision in favor of life.

I can also understand a panicky teenager thinking abortion is the only answer to her crisis. What I cannot understand is how a woman who has conceived, carried and delivered a child can end a subsequent pregnancy with abortion (or assist another woman to do so). How do you forget that feeling of independent life growing within you? How do you forget your fierce desire to nurture and protect that life? How do you decide that one pregnancy was about having a baby but another was about disposing of unwanted fetal tissue?

I don't get our schizophrenic society. Humans have never had as complete an understanding of the physical aspects of reproduction as we do today. We can look at sonogram pictures and track a baby's development from just a few weeks old to full term. We've even learned how to "make" a baby outside the womb. We've added new terms to our vocabulary like oocyte, spermatozoon, and in vitro fertilization.

Yet we've moved further and further away from understanding what mother-father-child is all about. We've completely separated the pleasures of sex from the possibility of conception. We've decided that the joy of parenthood doesn't require a man and a woman in a lifelong committed relationship. Today four out of 10 babies in America are born to a single

Our hearts war with our minds over this modern view of reproduction. Dad doesn't lean over Mom's tummy to talk to their embryo.

mother. Many families now include a sperm donor, frozen embryos or "my baby's daddy."

However, our hearts war with our minds over this modern view of reproduction. We don't proudly announce that we've got an implanted zygote. Dad doesn't lean over Mom's tummy to talk to their embryo. We don't celebrate the arrival of a fully formed fetus.

We have babies, and we instinctively love babies. Three million years of human evolution have programmed us to give special attention and care to tiny, weak new beings. We

spend billions of dollars promoting and protecting the health of everyone's babies. We extend our concern to pregnant mothers. We give them the last seat on the bus and first place on the lifeboat. We assure their job security and grant them special leave when their babies are born.

Then we turn right around and tell women that an unplanned pregnancy is a disaster. We say that the child whose conception has already begun to change their whole body isn't really a baby. It's fetal tissue that we're entitled — almost required — to dispose of it quickly.

Honestly, I just don't get it.

Kathleen welcomes comments. Send them to Kathleen Choi, 1706 Waiuanuenue Ave., Hilo 96720, or email: kathchoi@hawaii.rr.com.

Sister Vandana Narayan, Congregation of the Sacred Hearts VIRIDITAS: SOUL GREENING

Consecrated life, blessings, challenges

Interviewed by Sister Malia Dominica Wong, OP
Hawaii Catholic Herald



About 17 years ago, I felt the call of Christ to enter the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. My family was not happy about this choice. Even my parish priest, unfamiliar with the sisters, would not give me permission to go on a vocation camp organized by them in Bhubaneswar, India. Without any support, I felt like the thorny ground in Scripture where seeds were allowed to grow, but the competing thorns choked the life out of the good plants. Somehow though, I listened to my inner voice and went to the camp anyway. There, I felt God's blessings and the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit. After an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with the sisters, I said, "This is where I belong."

A religious vocation is a blessing received from God. It is a journey taken where my vocation is nurtured by walking with God day by day. Of course, there are times when I feel spiritually dry and it is not easy to cope with situations, but these feelings come and disappear. Prayer and personal adoration are the greatest comforts through which I deepen my relationship with God. Whenever I go home to Chhattisgarh and meet with my family and friends, they always tell me, "You are blessed." When I hear this, I know it is a blessing and an opportunity to continue to nurture every moment of my life and to be a witness of the living Gospel.

Although my parents had arranged for me to go into nursing, and my own involvement in the national volleyball team meant that opportunities for my future were wide open, the powerful attraction that I had felt with the Sacred Hearts Sisters could not be matched. The

congregation has a beautiful charism, vision and mission. It is "to contemplate, live and proclaim God's redeeming love." One of the important elements is the family spirit. This is very significant as I feel called to serve through random acts of kindness and to transform the family in today's world. I want people to feel at home and comfortable with me that through this relationship they will come to know the living charism of God.

During my final year of studies for my degree in social work and social science at Niswass, I got placed in a leprosy rehabilitation center. I was not wearing a uniform or a religious habit, but a blind man asked me, "Are you a nun?" I was shocked by this question and could not sleep that night. The next day I asked him, "Uncle, what made you think that I am a nun?" He said, "I find you very different from the other students." I understood then that even a blind person can sense our humbleness, compassionate heart and good attitude; I don't have to wear a habit.

It is a great challenge for those in the consecrated life to keep focus amidst the many works. But, when we do focus on each person we are with at the moment, and treat them with the same love, respect and compassion as Jesus would, God's love and blessings abound.

Sister Vandana Narayan is a Sister of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. She is 13 years professed and has lived in Bhubaneswar, and Kolkata in India; and in Manila, Philippines. She is currently a student at Chaminade University of Honolulu and resides with her community at Regina Pacis Convent in Kaimuki.



Effie Caldarola
FOR THE JOURNEY

A pet's death and our own

After Christmas, a brutal cold descended on my part of the Midwest and ushered in our new year.

We returned from our holiday travels to find a light dusting of snow. Most of it had been blown away by the harsh winds of the Plains, but when I awoke in the morning, I discovered that my patio, protected from the gusts, was covered by a smooth, pristine white blanket.

Punctuating the snow was a trail of little bunny footprints. For me, that brought to mind only one thing: Sunny's footprints were missing. She was no longer around to chase rabbits.

Sunny, our golden retriever, was geriatric in dog years, and she'd had a good life. It was still hard to see her declining this past year. She stopped eating and drinking the week before Christmas. The veterinarian confirmed what we knew: It was time for her to go.

For those who have never had to put down a pet, it's probably hard to understand the anguish. For those

who have, no explanation is necessary.

Sunny's departure occurred shortly after the crazy media frenzy that erupted when news reports mistakenly quoted Pope Francis as telling a young boy that he would be reunited in heaven with his dog.

It was amazing to see the splash this purported statement made. Even The New York Times incorrectly reported it before somebody actually looked into the transcript of Pope Francis' wonderful statement on creation and discovered that it was beautiful and inspiring, but it certainly contained no assurance that Fido was romping somewhere beyond the Pearly Gates.

Why the interest in the original report? The press always looks for "feel good" stories at the holiday season and this fit the bill. Also, people are incredibly attached to their pets, so the assurance that we might see them again struck a chord.

But it also speaks to our relationship with death. This may sound crazy — it sounds a little crazy to me now — but for a few days after I pet-

ted Sunny and cooed to her as she took her last breath, I had something of an existential crisis.

Did Sunny cease to exist? If Sunny suddenly was just ash, just "dust in the wind," as the song says, what did it all say about life and death for me? It forced me to confront my fears about death.

As a Christian, I cling to the resurrection and to Jesus' promises. I know Jesus lives, and that in some fashion, he promises me life. But it's all wrapped up in such mystery. We have no idea what awaits us. So, when the pope is misquoted as saying our dog will be in heaven, we hear a message of certainty and cling to it. Hey, life will be just what it is right now, only without problems.

My youngest daughter, who had campaigned hard to adopt Sunny when she and Sunny were young, wrote about the pope's words, and said, "Sunny is probably chasing rabbits in heaven right now." I laughed. What kind of heaven would that be for the rabbits?

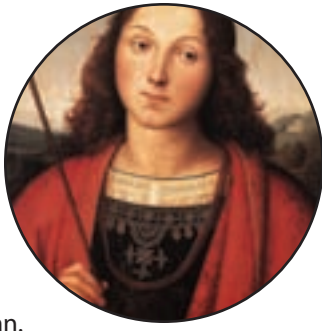
I knew a man who worked with the dying, who would sit at the bedside of those dying alone so that they would have human companionship until the end.

"All I know," he told me through the eyes of faith, "is that they are falling into the arms of a merciful God."

We return to a merciful God who beckons us to enter into the Creator's mystery now, on this earth, through prayer and silence and service.

Saints

Sebastian
died c. 288
January 20



According to the many legends surrounding Sebastian, he was born in Gaul and raised in Milan. Though a Christian, he joined the imperial army at Rome about 283. He made converts of officials and jailers, effected cures and urged Christian prisoners to stay strong in their faith. He was named captain of the praetorian guards, but the emperor, upon finding out that he was a Christian, ordered his execution. Shot with arrows and left for dead, Sebastian survived and was nursed back to life. Later, he denounced the emperor for his cruelty to Christians, and the emperor had him beaten to death. A favorite subject of Renaissance artists, Sebastian is the patron saint of archers, soldiers and athletes. © CNS

Heller



Diversions



Hawaii Catholic Harold's Quiz

Aloha, quizzicals! We're rolling through wintertime in Hawaii. Fortunately for us, that still means lots of sunshine, crisp breezes and colorful rainbows. Here's another quiz to keep your days bright and enlightened!

1) Saints

Which saint, a Doctor of the Church whose feast day is Jan. 28, wrote the classic commentary "Summa Theologica?"

- a) St. Thomas the Apostle
- b) St. Thomas Aquinas
- c) St. Thomas More
- d) St. Thomas Becket

2) Scripture

What was the name of the Syrian army commander who in the scriptures was healed of a dreaded skin disease after bathing seven times in the Jordan River? (Hint: See 2 Kings 5)

- a) Naaman
- b) Nebuchadnezzar
- c) Shadrach
- d) Abednego

3) Devotions

Which of the following Marian titles is NOT in the Litany of Loreto?

- a) Queen of Angels
- b) Queen of Peace
- c) Queen of Glory
- d) Queen of Patriarchs

4) Definitions

What is an "acolyte?"

- a) A person who assists priests or bishops in a liturgical celebration
- b) A person in a religious order between his or her first vows and perpetual vows
- c) Another term for the associate pastor of a parish
- d) A lay person living a contemplative, ascetic lifestyle

5) Popes

True or false: Pope Francis was born in Italy before his parents immigrated to Argentina.

- a) True
- b) False

6) Current events

Pope Francis will be inducting 20 new cardinals at the Vatican Feb. 14. Which of the following countries will have their first cardinal after this ceremony?

- a) Cape Verde
- b) Tonga
- c) Myanmar
- d) All of the above

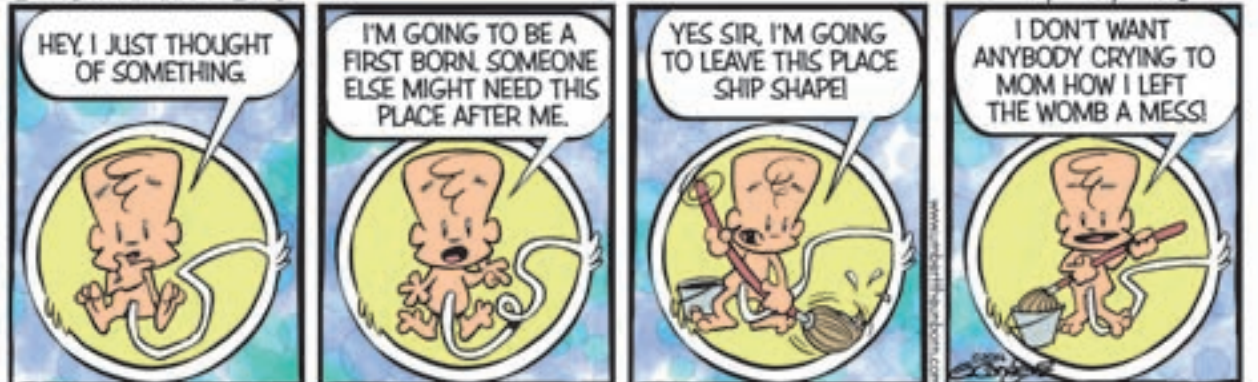
7) Ecumenism

The Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic order with more than a hundred Catholic and Protestant brothers, lives in which country?

- a) India
- b) Brazil
- c) France
- d) Canada

Answers: 1) b, 2) a, 3) c, 4) a, 5) b, 6) d, 7) c

Umbert the Unborn



Scripture search

PAT KASTEN

Gospel for January 18, 2015

John 1:35-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the meeting with the first disciples. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|
| JOHN | STANDING | JESUS |
| WALK BY | LAMB OF GOD | HEARD |
| TURNED | RABBI | TEACHER |
| WHERE | STAYING | THAT DAY |
| FOUR | AFTERNOON | ANDREW |
| BROTHER | SIMON | FOUND |
| MESSIAH | CEPHAS | PETER |

NAMES

C Y B K L A W D N H O J
D E L T E A C H E R E O
N A P E T E R J E S L W
O N A H J O F O U R B K
O P J H A I S S E M E L
N N O M I S T H E A R D
R G T T H A T D A Y D E
E C H O N O J A E R D N
T L L D R J I M Y N A R
F A I B B A R H U I D U
A N D R E W H O E L N T
G L A M B O F G O D B G

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Catholic crossword

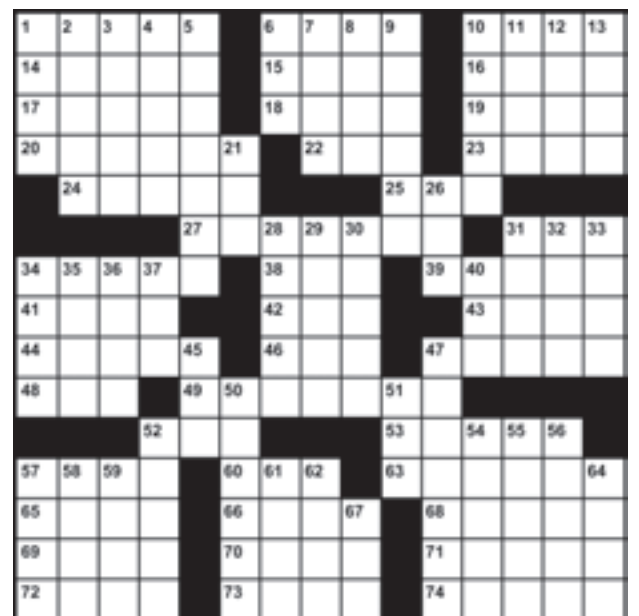
ACROSS

- 1 Daughter of Jacob
- 6 Josephite letters
- 10 Michaelmas mon.
- 14 Name associated with a WWII turning point
- 15 Wheel shaft
- 16 North Sea feeder
- 17 Mammary gland in cows
- 18 Friday in Lent no-no food
- 19 Western pact
- 20 Mountain range
- 22 Utmost
- 23 Expel
- 24 Up and about
- 25 Liturgical color
- 27 Ruler
- 31 US Lawyers' org.
- 34 Greatest king of Israel
- 38 Vane reading
- 39 Catholic United States Chief Justice Taney
- 41 Hebrew month
- 42 United States farmer's org.
- 43 Game played on horseback
- 44 Shrub of the cashew family
- 46 Web attachment
- 47 He would find Fridays in Lent easy
- 48 With it, to a beatnik
- 49 Supervise

- 52 High-tech hosp. test
- 53 Old Testament hymn
- 57 Site of first miracle
- 60 NT book
- 63 Become visible
- 65 USA
- 66 Secure
- 68 A sister of Calliope
- 69 Chain piece
- 70 Land in the water
- 71 Fuselage fastener
- 72 Charges
- 73 Russian no
- 74 Snow conveyances

DOWN

- 1 God, in ancient Rome
- 2 Country in which Mother Teresa founded her order
- 3 Swellings
- 4 Wide-awake
- 5 Hard pressed
- 6 Abbr. for two OT books
- 7 Job owned five hundred yoke of these
- 8 Narrow strip of wood
- 9 Father-in-law of Moses



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

- 10 Church council
- 11 Son of Rebekah and Isaac
- 12 Like Spot and Puff
- 13 Horse's gait
- 21 "He has shown might with his ____" (Magnificat)
- 26 To do this is human, but to forgive is divine
- 28 Prince of ____
- 29 Where King Saul consulted a medium
- 30 Paper packs
- 31 Highly excited
- 32 Catholic horror actor Lugosi
- 33 Elvis' middle name
- 34 Pizzazz
- 35 Together, musically
- 36 Beguile
- 37 Nest egg, briefly
- 40 Uncover, in verse
- 45 Abbr. for two NT epistles
- 47 Evening prayer of the Divine Office
- 50 The Blessed ____ Mary
- 51 US government agency
- 52 The four ____ of the Church
- 54 Possible Easter month
- 55 Depart
- 56 Finished off, in chess
- 57 The golden ____
- 58 Michelle's friend
- 59 Hawaiian state bird
- 61 The yoke of Jesus (Mt 11:30)
- 62 Objectionable
- 64 Decays
- 67 Peter cast one out



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, blesses the lot of a housing project in Pasay City during a Jan. 11 ground-breaking ceremony. The building will house 67 of the families living along a creek and roughly 300 families already living in their own tiny apartments.

All in a cardinal's day

Manila's Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle prepares for the arrival of Pope Francis in the presence of the poor

By **Cindy Wooden**
Catholic News Service

MANILA, Philippines — “Today I was thinking about the tenacity of the poor,” said Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila as he and his guests rode past a polluted creek lined with the cardboard, plastic and tin shacks of people he describes as “informal settlers.”

He had just presided over the ground-breaking ceremony for a building that will house 67 of the families living along the creek, then celebrated a late-afternoon Mass for them and for the roughly 300 families already living in their own tiny apartments in neat, two-story cinderblock units built under the auspices of the St. Hannibal Empowerment Center.

As he arrived in a pedal cart to the building site — a lot vacant except for a huge pile of rubble — and as he left the Mass, the crowds pressed in. Police and community organizers had to form a cordon to get him to his car after Mass, but he still stopped to pose for selfies, smiling broadly and bringing the hands of the elderly to his forehead in a sign of respect.

The poor, he said, “are willing to wait. When life is easy, it’s easy to say I’m a hopeful person,” but the poor in the Malibay community of Pasay City on the outskirts of Manila had been living in shacks for decades. And they spent three years working with the Rogationist Fathers on community education and community-building projects before they found, financed and purchased the plot of land that will be their new home.

Pope Francis was scheduled to arrive

in Manila Jan. 15, and the 57-year-old cardinal had a million details to handle — many of them dispatched with his lightning quick telephone text-messaging skills — but he immersed himself in the crowd at the ground-breaking ceremony and Mass Jan. 11.

It was just a couple hours in a day filled with appointments from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. He didn’t even stop for lunch, although after the Mass in Pasay City and before heading to the next Mass, he did take a little piece of cake that was part of the sweet array offered to his guests by the sisters who staff his residence. He also popped a couple “pastillas de leche” into his mouth, trying to tempt his already sugar-buzzing guests.

When a comment was made that he seems much thinner than he did in October when he was one of the presidents of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, he said, “It’s no joke preparing for the Holy Father.”

Making time for family

Asked if his schedule would be any lighter the next day, he replied with a long, drawn out “nooo.” But despite all the meetings, he still had to find a way to spend a bit of time with his father, Manuel, because it was his dad’s 85th birthday. Although he knew it wasn’t quite right, he said he might have to ask his brother to bring his parents to Manila from their home in Imus, about 15 miles away.

His parents have not been unaffected by the planning for the papal trip. Cardinal Tagle said he has been hearing from all sorts of “long-lost friends” who were

hoping to meet Pope Francis. “Some even go to my mother,” Milagros, asking for tickets to one of the papal events, he said.

The cardinal’s public Sunday began with him warmly welcoming a succession of journalists to his home, standing where TV crews told him to and answering their questions with ease. He posed for group and individual photos with almost all of them.

14 boxes of gifts

He talked about the papal trip, the morning earthquake that woke all his visitors, the Filipino people, Pope Francis’ personality, popular piety and the poor. He expressed concern about how he will deliver the gifts people have given him to give to the pope. They fill 14 boxes so far, he said, and the nuncio doesn’t want them stacked at the nunciature where the pope will sleep.

During a fast-paced and often funny conversation with Lino Rulli, host of the “The Catholic Guy” on SiriusXM, Cardinal Tagle said he is not nervous about the approaching papal visit. “I’m excited. I want to see how the pastor in him will react to the reality here.”

The pope, he said, practices what he preaches about going out to the world’s peripheries to meet, listen to and help the poor and excluded.

When you do that, the cardinal said, “you will learn something,” and he’s looking forward to seeing the pope’s face, watching his eyes, when he “receives the Gospel proclaimed to him by the poor.”

The theme came up again in an evening conversation with Catholic News

Service before the last events of the day: a 7 p.m. Mass in a super-packed Santo Nino de Tondo Church and dinner afterward with the concelebrating priests, auxiliary bishop and the journalists who were treated as his honored guests.

The Filipino poor usually are “resigned, in a positive sense. They say, ‘We will try to succeed, but if not, God will take care of us,’” he said. Even if they cannot provide their children with a nice house, good schools and nutritious meals every day, they try to live honorably and ensure special events are celebrated. “If nothing else, they want to leave their children a good name and good memories. You hear that over and over from the poor.”

The poorest will be there

Cardinal Tagle said he did not know how to judge the accuracy of the predictions that 5 million people will attend the pope’s Mass Jan. 18 in Manila’s Rizal Park, but he knows a lot of the poorest Filipinos will be there.

“Many people believe that even if they cannot see the pope up close, if they are geographically present, it will bring a blessing. And their children and grandchildren can say they were there,” he said. Sacrificing to get to the park, waiting for hours and putting up with the crowds “is a bodily form of prayer, like fasting.”

Cardinal Tagle said that over and over again, his understanding of the Scriptures has taken on new depth from his experience with the poor and “their wisdom, their hope.” That’s what he wants to share with the pope.

NEWS

Pope offers Mass for Paris victims

VATICAN CITY — The morning after 12 people were shot to death and 11 others injured at the Paris office of a satirical weekly newspaper, Pope Francis dedicated his early morning Mass to the victims and their families.

At the beginning of the Mass Jan. 8, he told the small congregation that the attack in Paris Jan. 7 was a reminder of “the cruelty man is capable of. Let us pray at this Mass for the victims of this cruelty — there are so many! And, we pray also for the perpetrators of such cruelty that the Lord will change their hearts.” (CNS)

Yoga, Zen classes can't open hearts

VATICAN CITY — Courses in yoga, Zen meditation, even extensive studies in church teaching and spirituality can never free people enough to open their hearts to God and his love, Pope Francis said in a morning homily.

Only the Holy Spirit can “move the heart” and make it “docile to the Lord, docile to the freedom of love,” the pope said Jan. 9 at Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

The pope looked at how Jesus' disciples could fail to recognize and be open to the Lord's miracles, like his walking on water, the multiplication of the loaves and encountering him on the road to Emmaus.

“They were the apostles, those closest to Jesus. But they didn't understand,” he said, according to the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. (CNS)

Vatican sending \$3.5M to fight Ebola

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is helping Catholic dioceses and agencies step up the fight against Ebola and is urging other donors to help.

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace announced Jan. 7 that the Holy See would be making a “financial contribution” to support church-sponsored assistance to those affected by the Ebola outbreak. Vatican Radio reported the sum would be \$3.5 million.

“The Holy See encourages other donors, whether private or public, to add to these funds as a sign of solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are suffering gravely in the areas affected by the disease,” the council said in a written communique. Cardinal Peter Turkson, council president, traveled to Liberia and Sierra Leone Dec. 16-19 to meet with government officials and church leaders and to demonstrate the Vatican's support for those affected by the crisis. (CNS)



‘Go set the world on fire’

SEEK 2015 conference implores college students to put Christ first

By Andy Telli
Catholic News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students implored nearly 10,000 young adults to put Christ first in their lives so they can help change the world.

“You were willed into existence because you were meant to be amazing. The invitation Christ is extending is to choose him first and become the man or woman you were meant to be,” Curtis Martin said during his keynote address Jan. 4 at the SEEK 2015 conference.

“If you allow Christ to be the principle and foundation of your life, you will be a world changer,” he said.

Sponsored by FOCUS and

held Jan. 1-5 at the Opryland Hotel and Resort in Nashville, the conference drew young people from college and university campuses across the country.

Martin told attendees, “The great truth of the Christian Gospel is not that we love God, but that God loves us. ... We need to respond with a full, all-in effort.”

“If you become who you are meant to be, you will set the world on fire,” he added. “Go set the world on fire.”

Attendees felt inspired to do just that.

“It moves my heart to tears to see people encountering Christ,” said Gage Shirley, one of more than 75 students from the University of Kansas in attendance.

The SEEK conference was

the second for Shirley. The first, in 2013, came as he was going through a conversion in his faith and was helped along in that journey by older students he met through the FOCUS missionaries at the university.

Two years ago, Shirley said, he “saw how big the church is, and how many college students are pursuing Christ.”

His goal this year was to mentor younger students attending their first conference, just as he was mentored, and to discern the path his life should take after he graduates in the spring. Shirley said he is considering working as a missionary with several organizations, including FOCUS.

Heather Nelson, another Kansas University student at

the conference, has already made that decision: she will become a FOCUS missionary after spring graduation, working on a college campus to help students develop a relationship with Christ.

The conference has been a learning experience, a surprise for Nelson. She said she thought the conference would be geared more for people still seeking a relationship with Christ, and as a student leader at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the university, she thought she already had that.

But by listening to the conference speakers, Nelson said she learned a lot that she plans to take to the Bible study group she leads at her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta. FOCUS has more than

400 missionaries serving on 100 campuses nationwide in a campaign to invite college students to build a relationship with Christ and the Catholic faith. The FOCUS model begins first with establishing genuine friendships and helping students, through small-group Bible study and one-on-one mentorship, to develop the tools needed to maintain their faith while in school. Students also are sent to share their faith with others.

SEEK and FOCUS help students know the love of Christ and develop a true relationship with him, Nelson said. “That's what's lacking.”

People may know about Jesus, Nelson said, “but they don't know him as their best friend.”



LISA'S CATECHISM CORNER
Church teaching explained to you

For what purpose are we here?

YOUCAT*: *We are here on earth in order to know and to love God, to do good according to his will, and to go someday to heaven. [CCC 1-3, 358]*

New Year = Fresh Start. Like so many others, I spent the last few weeks of December thinking about my New Year's resolution. Of course, I knew that no matter what I decided on would be a complete FAIL within the first week of the new year.

A resolution is supposed to change an ingrained behavior; it's supposed to make me a better person. This got me thinking — Why do we make resolutions? What is our purpose in life?

Some of you will remember one of the first things we learned in the Baltimore Catechism: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next.”

Why not resolve to continue to learn more about God, fall deeper in love with him, and serve him through social causes or in parish ministry? Sounds like a few good resolutions.

**Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Lisa Gomes is the director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



MAKANA'S HELPFUL HINTS
Exciting ways to enhance young adult ministry

LOL

Again my inspiration comes from my wife and one of her favorites, the “now on her way to heaven” Sister Anne Bryan Smollin. She taught Stephanie a very important lesson: laughter is powerful!

Sister Anne was great at using humor to open people up to God's graces. “We just need these tiny little moments, these little things that touch our hearts and our souls, and let us know that we're really alive to the Gospel message that's in front of us.” So, my “tip” for this week is an excerpt from Sister Anne Smollin's book, “Live, Laugh and Be Blessed.”

“Both of us were concerned about the impact that the current crisis in the church would have on the mental and physical well-being of those who were misjudged or unjustly accused. I asked him how he was dealing with it in his own personal life. Without hesitation he said, ‘Each day I have a holy hour and I have a happy hour!’ ... We all need a happy hour, too, where we can balance our daily stresses. ... I believe happy hours can be holy hours as well; they are the present moments when we choose to live intentionally, allowing times to touch us in the depth of our souls.”

Makana Aiona is the diocesan coordinator for Young Adult Ministry.