

# St. Michael the Archangel Parish



## "Stewardship Brings Me Closer to God" ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL'S TONY PASCO

When Tony (Anthony) Pasco was a young boy, he lived on a coffee farm, which he worked on together with his 14 siblings. He remembers that his school year didn't start until October because of the coffee season.

"Ever since I can remember, I worked on the farm until I was in eighth grade, and then moved to Honolulu," Tony says. "It is part of my nature. I enjoy doing it."

Tony joined St. Michael the Archangel in 2003 shortly after his wife, Alicia, began attending Mass at the parish. They bought a home in the area, a mile from the parish.

He took his first step to get involved in parish life when Fr. Lio announced that he was going to start a Sharing Garden located on the grounds of Immaculate Conception Church.

"Three of us grow fruits and vegetables like papaya, oranges, bananas, carrots, green beans, eggplants, tomatoes, okra, and others," Tony says. "During harvest, it is about 200 pounds of fruits and vegetables on average a week. It goes to food baskets and to people in need."



*The Pasco Family – (standing, from left) Marisa, Sharmayne, Alicia, Tony, Janine, and Monica; (kneeling, from left) Derek and Anthony*

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JUNE 2016



MĀLAMA I KA MAKANA

Cherish The Gift | A Call to Stewardship in the Catholic Church in Hawaii

MĀLAMA I KA MAKANA

# KEEPING OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS IN THE *Summertime*

**W**e've stopped delivery of the newspaper and mail. We've taken the dog to the kennel. The iron is unplugged, and the stove is turned off. Is there anything else we need to do before we leave on vacation?"

Aren't you forgetting something? Did you remember to write a check to St. Michael's for the Sundays you'll be gone?

"But I won't be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can't I skip those envelopes when I'm away? After all, I'll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn't that enough?"

Many of us, whether we have school-aged keiki at home or not, mentally operate on a school year calendar. We assume our organizations operate September through May and then take it easy during June, July and August. And to some extent, many parish activities do function on such a schedule. Our parish may not hold Religious Education classes during the summer. Our choirs frequently take a break. Even many of the parish staff members take summer vacations! Can't our giving take a vacation during the summer, too?

Even as we form the question in our mind, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer long is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God

remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish `ohana, even during our vacation time.

God's steadfastness in giving to us is the primary reason for us to respond by being faithful in our stewardship toward Him. But there is also a practical reason why we need to keep up our pledges of time, talent and treasure throughout the summer – the Church needs our kōkua year-round.

Even though some parish activities are reduced during the summer months, the parish's expenses are not. After all, there are still Sunday Masses and weekday Masses, too. The parish staff members still need their salaries. Despite the fact that some parish functions are on a break, other activities may take place, such as Vacation Bible School. And although the regular parish Religious Education program may be on a break, the summer expenses are often the highest, as textbooks and other supplies are bought for the upcoming school year. Our parish has to pay its bills on a year-round basis, just like your `ohana.

Our parish plans a budget for the year, taking into account the commitments that you, the members, have made. If parishioners do not live out their financial commitments to the parish, the budget will not balance.

Our giving needs to be maintained throughout the summer, just as God maintains His generosity to us. Our stewardship is a response to God's gifts. And God pours out His gifts and His grace upon us all year long.





*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# E PULE KĀKOU!

## *Prayer – By Us and For Us*

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**P**ope Francis has certainly had an impact on our Church, and maybe even on each of us individually. Do you recall his first words to the world and to us when he appeared on the balcony following his election as pope? He said quite simply, “Pray for me.” That is a feeling I share sometimes when I consider what needs to be done, and what I personally need to do. It may be a feeling each of us has – not just now and then, but relatively consistently.

Prayer – one of the four Pillars of Stewardship – is foundational to our faith and the practice of it. It is through prayer and the sacraments that we prepare ourselves to accept God’s plentiful gifts and blessings.

Each of us needs to develop a consistent prayer life. We should set time aside each day to pray. It is through prayer that we cultivate our personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We provide many opportunities for prayer as part of our parish life. This includes time for us to pray as individuals and time to pray as a community.



Our prayer lives culminate at Mass in the Eucharist. The Eucharist, prayer and stewardship, are interconnected. In *Lumen Gentium*, we are reminded that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith. With the gift of the Eucharist and an active prayer life, we are better equipped to carry out the other three Pillars of Stewardship – Hospitality, Formation and Service. You might say we pray to help us seek and find how to serve the Lord and others.

This is a time of year when we enjoy numerous opportunities to kick back and relax. One of the best ways to spend time is in prayer. In both our individual and communal prayer, we turn to God to perceive our gifts and talents – and then, as stewards, we need to place those gifts at the service of one another, and especially of the Lord.

You and I are on a journey together – a journey toward holiness. That journey involves an existence of daily conversion and an awareness of how grateful we need to be. Through prayer, we can better see ourselves as God sees us, and we can seek to find who God is calling us to be.

I want to assure you of my constant and daily prayers for you. Like the Holy Father, however, I also must admit that I need you to “pray for me.” I thank you for your prayers. I am blessed to be your pastor. E pule kākou!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Lio Faletoi





# Angels Return FOR



**T**he terrible thing about cancer is that there aren't many folks alive whom it hasn't touched in some way. But the wonderful thing about us is that we have a way of banding together to prove that we're tougher than cancer will ever be.

For the fourth year in a row, the St. Michael's Angels are gearing up to participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Kona. The relay is set to take place from 5 p.m. Saturday, July 9, until 1 a.m., Sunday, July 10, at Old Kona Airport Park.

"Many people join the event because they have a friend or a loved one who has or had cancer – this was the case for me," says team member and team Co-Captain Beverly Bahasa. "It seems so many people are affected by this disease, and there is a connection among people because of it."

Relay participants raise money for their team beforehand, and then spend the night walking around a

track. Teams will camp out around the track with food, games and more opportunities for fundraising. Lining the track will be luminaria — glowing bag lights — that have been purchased by relay sponsors in memory of a cancer victim or survivor.

Beverly, her Co-Captain Sharmayne Naone, and other members of the team have been selling luminaria bags at the back of the church after weekend Masses since May.

"Some people just write the name of someone on the bag, others draw on them, and we offer colored markers," Beverly says. "Last year, I actually decorated many, even putting pictures of the person it was dedicated to on the bag. When they are lit up, they are magical."

St. Michael's Angels have a history of heavenly generosity when it comes to fundraising. In 2014, they raised the most money for the relay of all 36 teams who participated, which put them in first place and helped

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*"Some of the walkers never stop walking all night, blisters and all, they are truly dedicated. The significance of the relay is that we are symbolizing a day in the life of a cancer patient. Although it is almost unimaginable as to what they are feeling as they struggle with this disease, it is a time to reflect. It is a very powerful event, and a lot of fun." – Beverly Bahasa, Co-Captain*





# nite

## RELAY FOR LIFE

All parishioners are more than welcome to join the team! To register, please visit [relayforlife.org](http://relayforlife.org) and search the word "Kona" under the "Sign up for an Event" field. You can then click "Sign Up" to be taken to St. Michael's page.

them earn the year's trophy. They also finished in second place in 2013 and 2015.

"We have a few parishioners who are sponsors of the event, and to be a sponsor, you have to donate at least \$250," Beverly says. "We have some very generous parishioners, I offered angel keyrings that I made to anyone who donated at least \$5 aside from the donation of \$10 for luminaria. We at St. Michael's sold more luminaria than any other group."

Second only to the generosity of the donors is the dedication Beverly says team members display during the course of the event. As a rule, one team member must stay on the track for the duration of the eight-hour event.

"Some of the walkers never stop walking all night, blisters and all, they are truly dedicated," she says. "The significance of the relay is that we are symbolizing a day in the life of a cancer patient. Although it is almost unimaginable as to what they are feeling as they struggle with this disease, it is a time to reflect. It is a very powerful event, and a lot of fun."



## Tony Pasco *continued from front cover*

Gardening and working outdoors is part of Tony's nature, and he still takes care of his yard and his daughter's yard. He would encourage parishioners who want to become active in parish life to consider what they're interested in and to ask questions.

"Don't be intimidated," Tony says. "Don't be afraid to ask people if you aren't sure what you want to do. Don't be afraid to ask questions."

Tony worked for 46 years for Frito-Lay, for 10 to 12 hours a day. When he retired, he quickly discovered that he needed to find something to do to fill his time. Today, he gives over 15 hours a week to the church.

"That's when I really started giving back to the community," Tony says. "I also try to beautify the grounds at Holy Rosary Church. Initially I went with my whole family because it was overgrown with weeds."

Recently, Tony was the recipient of the Island Treasures Award given to him by Bishop Larry Silva because of his example of living stewardship.

"I didn't expect it!" Tony says. "I was just trying to help the church. It is an honor. People congratulate me, and I say, 'You could get this award, too!'"

For Tony, stewardship is important because he believes in being a role model for his 6 children, 20 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, like his mother and grandmother were for him. He fondly remembers going to Mass with his family and attending catechism classes.

"Stewardship brings me closer to God," Tony says. "Following in His footsteps and getting involved gives you a stronger faith."

As a lifelong Catholic who believes in the power of daily prayer, Tony thanks the Church for putting him on the right path from his very childhood growing up on the coffee farm.

"If you can, get closer to God and stay close," Tony says. "Your faith needs to be there because things will go wrong – but when things go wrong, pray, be strong, and be positive."

## A Catholic's Guide to Good Summer Reading

**H**ave you been wondering what to read during vacation this year? Why not give spiritual reading a try?

There are thousands of titles out there – too many for any one person – just waiting to make a positive impact on your faith life. Reading is a fantastic opportunity for general spiritual direction and good practice for every searching soul.

Choose a title from “you can’t go wrong” authors such as Louis de Wohl, G.K. Chesterton, Peter Kreeft, Francis de Sales, C.S. Lewis, and Scott Hahn. Their works alone should take you well into the summer, and possibly through to the next decade.

Or, choose from this list of great Christian books, in no particular order:

### ***The Story of a Soul* by St. Therese of Lisieux**

In this autobiography and all-time favorite Catholic book, St. Therese teaches her “little way” of spiritual childhood. Millions of copies have been sold worldwide.

### ***Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis**

One of the most popular introductions to the Christian faith ever published, this series of broadcast talks has been collected into book fashion. *Mere Christianity* sets out to “explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.”

### ***Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism* by Scott and Kimberly Hahn**

This offers a conversion story of a brilliant, anti-Catholic Scripture scholar and his wife to the Catholic faith. Now well-known speakers and Catholic apologists, Scott and Kimberly recount their story with simplicity and love.

### ***The Good News about Sex & Marriage* by Christopher West**

This down-to-earth application of Pope John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* is an easy to read yet insightful account of the Church’s teaching on sex and marriage.

### ***God is Love* by Pope Benedict XVI**

The first encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI highlights the love of God and explains how to spread that love to others. This can be read for free online.

### ***The Virtue Driven Life* by Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel**

In his charming, conversational style, Fr. Groeschel challenges us to rediscover virtue and its proper place in the modern world. One by one, he explains prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, faith, hope, and charity – but not without wit and wisdom!

### ***What Catholics Really Believe* by Karl Keating**

Addressing 52 of the greatest misconceptions of the Catholic faith, Keating draws upon Scripture and Tradition to dispel errors and explain the rationale behind Church teaching.

### ***No Greater Love* by Mother Teresa**

This anthology collects the teachings and sayings of Mother Teresa. Founder of the Missionaries of Charity and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa speaks joyfully about her work with the poor and God’s call in our lives.

### ***Surprised by Truth* edited by Patrick Madrid**

Eleven converts give their Biblical and historical reasons for becoming Catholic. These unique personal testimonies continue to transform hearts throughout the world in an insightful read for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Happy summer! Happy reading!



## *"God Has Blessed Us and We Need to Return Those Blessings"*

# **Our St. Michael the Archangel Capital Campaign Committee**



**A**t the core of stewardship is the concept that living stewardship as a way of life is our response in gratitude to our many blessings from God. We at St. Michael the Archangel Parish are deeply blessed in so many ways – living in Hawai'i is a blessing, our parish is a blessing, and our community is a blessing. All we need to do is pray, worship and celebrate in our beautiful new parish church to bring all of those blessings together.

Fr. Lio called upon several good stewards from the parish to assist him with our building project, which came to fruition with the dedication of our new church last year. Of course, it was the response of all the good people in the parish and many who are not members, but who spend part of their time here and worship with us that has made it all possible.

However, as most know, our work is far from being finished. Two people who have been involved with overseeing our funding efforts from almost the beginning are Don David and Robert Leopoldino. Along with them, others have joined in the planning and the execution of efforts to raise funds, including several groups from the parish.

"A few years ago, a Capital Campaign Committee was established for the purpose of assisting the parish

with ongoing projects, including the construction of the new church," Don says. "There is, however, much yet to be done and the committee is still active. We need our parishioners to step forward and help out in a variety of ways."

Don explains that the committee continues to meet and strategize and discuss how the parish can both fulfill its current commitments while continuing to prepare for and plan for the future.

"We still have a debt of approximately \$4 million from the church project," he says. "It is important for parishioners to continue to honor their pledges, adding to the second collection on Sunday for debt reduction, as well. Our challenge is to reduce and pay off our debt, but that needs the stewardship and commitment of all of our people. That can be accomplished in a number of ways. If your initial pledge had been completed, we would humbly ask that you consider making a new one – this can be done online at the website. Also, we are planning and will hold debt reduction events throughout the year – participation in those is important."

As an example of an upcoming event, the Feast Day of our patron St. Michael the Archangel is Thursday,

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## Capital Campaign Committee *continued from page 7*

Sept. 29. Therefore, we will hold a St. Michael Feast Day Celebration on the preceding Sunday, Sept. 25, after the 9 a.m. Mass. For that event, we will need people to give of their time by volunteering to be part of planning and administering all that is scheduled. Part of the plan is to have ethnic food booths, and that, too, will require participation by many. Working with the Capital Campaign Committee is a committee overseeing this event headed by Lynda Romero. Contact Lynda at [mlmkona2@gmail.com](mailto:mlmkona2@gmail.com) for information or to indicate a willingness to serve.

Throughout the year, the committee works with groups and organizations from the parish on many excellent events. Our annual Tennis Tournament held in November is one example of that, as is our annual Golf Tournament. Two ongoing projects in which the committee is involved are our Giving Wall and our beautiful Waikupua Brick Garden. Information and the opportunity to be involved in these are available on the parish website – [stmichaelparishkona.org](http://stmichaelparishkona.org) – and on the weekly bulletin.

“Throughout the year, there are so many opportunities for people to assist us in our efforts,” Don says. “We would ask that in stewardship, our people consider offering their time and talents, perhaps for auction at an event. Landscapers might offer a half-day yard cleanup, or doctors give a free office visit, or attorneys or cleaning service people or cooks or auto detailers or barbers and hair stylists and many more could perhaps use their own talents and skills to support the parish.

“This is a community effort and a community responsibility,” he continues. “We would ask that people keep a close watch in the bulletin for what is happening and look for ways to be involved or to participate. They are welcome at our team meetings, as we need new people and new ideas. God has blessed us and we need to return those blessings.”

*For more information, please contact Don David at [dsdavid808@gmail.com](mailto:dsdavid808@gmail.com) or Robert Leopoldino at [robert.leopoldino@partners.mcd.com](mailto:robert.leopoldino@partners.mcd.com).*

### Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m. (Hawaiian/English), 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (English), 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Spanish)  
Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. • Mon-Thurs 12 p.m. • Confessions: Saturday 9-9:30 a.m.  
Immaculate Conception Mission: Sunday 8 a.m. • Holy Rosary Mission: Sunday 10 a.m.