



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

FR. VINCENT VU

Following His Call to Serve

In 2017, then-seminarian Vincent Anh Xuân Vu spent his pastoral year serving at St. Michael. After being ordained this past May, Fr. Vincent looks back on his journey to the priesthood and his time at St. Michael, and looks forward to living out his vocation at his new parish on O’ahu.

Originally from Vietnam, Fr. Vincent is one of seven brothers and sisters. He first felt the call to the priesthood when he was 7 years old.

“An experience happened during the visit of a Vietnamese bishop to my parish during Christmas Eve,” he says. “I had the opportunity to kiss the bishop’s ring, and that was the first sign of my vocation. To nurture the vocation, I often went with my parents to church early in the morning. I also enjoyed doing labor work such as cleaning the church on the weekend.”

Fr. Vincent moved with his family to Hawai’i in 2002, when he was in sixth grade. He continued to attend church with his family, and served as an altar server.

“At the end of my high school years, I began to take the steps to answer the vocation call,” he says. “I talked to my home parish priest to learn more about my vocation, and he helped me. He introduced me to the vocation director of the Diocese of Honolulu, and from there, my journey began.”

After graduating from high school, Fr. Vincent entered Mount Angel College Seminary in Oregon in 2008. There, he studied philosophy, earning his bachelor’s degree in the subject.



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IULAI/JULY
2019

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THE TRAITS OF THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship list” that could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

INSIGHT — Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS — Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of

the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

GENEROSITY — Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

JOY — Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the responsibilities of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.



A Letter From Our Pastor

Remembering America is a Gift from God

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We're all familiar with the song "America the Beautiful." Many of us share the feelings that inspired Katharine Lee Bates when she composed it as a poem.

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

Katharine Bates drew her inspiration from her experiences during the summer of 1893. An English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, she went to teach summer school at Colorado College, necessitating a journey across the country. The trip's highlight came when she reached the pinnacle of Pikes Peak and could gaze upon range after range of the Rocky Mountains on one side and the expanse of the Great Plains on the other.

Moved by the vistas around her and the varied features of America she had seen, an idea for a poem and some of its words formed in her mind atop the mountain. That night, back in her hotel room, she completed the poem.

I think the reason for the popularity of "America the Beautiful" is that it combines several themes into one coherent whole. The beauty and immensity of America's natural creation, the rich abundance of our harvests, and the recognition of God's generosity are woven together. The final product forms a hymn of thanksgiving for our land that goes beyond national pride to prayer, for God is the spiritual source for all the goodness we have.



I think it's a suitable theme for July, the month we celebrate Independence Day, our national holiday. Thankfulness, after all, is the basis of stewardship, the recognition that we've been given all we have. We're then responsible to the Giver for the use we make of His gifts.

The gifts we celebrate are manifold. Some are of a spiritual nature — our salvation by Christ and the sacraments, for example. Others are in the natural order, such as the beauties of creation and abundant harvests. Still others relate to social relationships, like families, friends and national life. Whatever the class of these gifts,

God is their ultimate source, and they are blessings.

Let us then receive these gifts — the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us — with thanksgiving. Let us offer praise to the Father of mercies for them, and let us use them in His service.

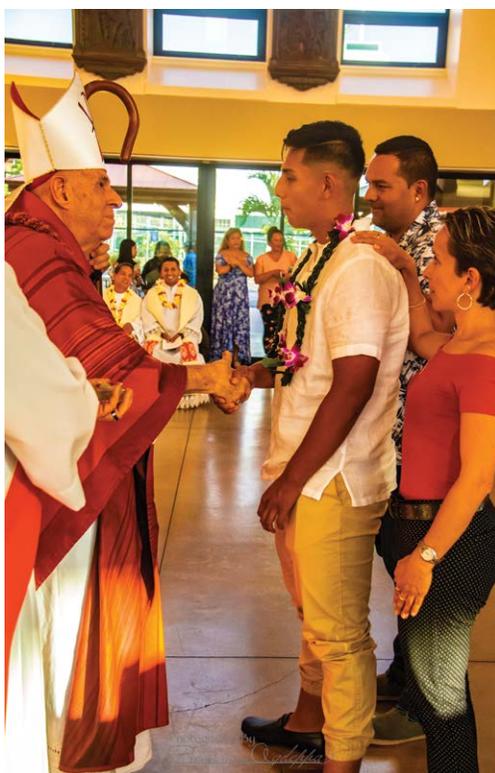
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Lio Faletoi



CELEBRATING *First Comm*

*We extend our heartfelt congratulations
who received First Holy Communion*





Communion AND Confirmation

and prayers to our young parishioners
and the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Seeking and Finding

Dr. Mary Warren grew up in Arkansas, raised in a Baptist family. One day, she saw the film *The Song of Bernadette*, which tells the story of young Bernadette Soubirous — later St. Bernadette — who had a vision of the Blessed Mother in Lourdes. Mary was intrigued by the film, so she went to the library and researched further.

“I went to my mother and said, ‘I want to become Catholic,’ and she said, ‘Okay, but you have to wait until you’re 16 years old,’” she says. “So, on my 16th birthday, I was baptized as a Catholic.”

Mary, a recipient of one of the Bishop’s Island Treasure awards, moved to the area in 1997 and has been a parishioner at St. Michael’s ever since. However, when the recession hit in 2008, she discovered a depth of faith that she hadn’t previously known.

“I lost everything financially that year,” she says. “It was a very traumatic time, and it ended with my mother dying. But there was a woman who was giving away these free books at the entrance of the church and there was a book by Mother Angelica, *Answers, Not Promises: Straightforward Solutions to Life’s Puzzling Problems*. I’d never heard of Mother Angelica, but I started reading the book and I thought, ‘Oh my goodness, this woman is amazing!’ One thing led to something else, and before I knew it I was going to daily Mass and adoration, and was doing all these things.

“I think God was working in my life because after all of the things in the world had been lost to me, I still had Him and that was when I really fell in

love with the Lord,” she adds. “So, it really wasn’t a loss — it was a blessing, because otherwise I never would’ve gotten as close to Him as I am.”

Today, Mary serves the parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, both at Mass, as well as bringing Communion to those who are hospitalized. She has a particular devotion to the Eucharist and loves sharing the gift of the True Presence of Christ with others.

“It’s such an honor to be able to serve in that role,” Mary says. “It’s such a tremendous privilege and my devotion to the Eucharist has grown. I have this urgency that people realize, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist — He is there, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.”

Prayer is an important part of her life, whether individual prayer, such as Eucharistic Adoration, or spending time praying with others at daily Mass, with the Rosary group or the charismatic prayer group.

“Adoration is really powerful because you’re there and quiet with Jesus and I feel that extremely necessary in my life,” Mary says. “With the groups, we share in community. It’s nice to be able to talk to other people who believe and pray as you do. Jesus said, ‘When two or more are gathered, I am with them.’”

As a physician, Mary has found that her faith and prayer also impacts the way she cares for her patients.

“I pray for all my patients every day and some will allow me to pray with them,” she says. “I think

“Ask God. Tell Him how much you want to know Him more. Ask Him to send His Holy Spirit. Start reading Sacred Scripture, especially the New Testament. God will lead you in the way He wants to lead you. There’s so much out there that we don’t know, and the more knowledge we have about our faith, the more we’ll be amazed at what God has given us in the Catholic faith.” — DR. MARY WARREN



Christ:

Meet Dr. Mary Warren



Dr. Mary Warren (right, with TJ Moses) moved to the area in 1997 and has been a parishioner at St. Michael's ever since.

that the Holy Spirit sometimes works in my discernment, as to what is going on in people's lives."

Mary encourages those who were born and raised Catholic to take time to consider the gift of the faith, learn more about it, and go deeper in their relationship with Christ.

"There's always more and I think that, so often, people who are born and baptized as children in the Church don't realize what a gift they were given, what a beautiful jewel box we have — all the things available to us as Catholics," Mary says. "Ask God. Tell Him how much you want to know Him more. Ask Him to send His Holy Spirit. Start reading Sacred Scripture, especially the New Testament. God will lead you in the way He wants to lead you. There's so much out there that we don't

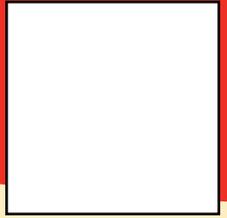
know, and the more knowledge we have about our faith, the more we'll be amazed at what God has given us in the Catholic faith."

She also hopes that people will take seriously the responsibility to share the beauty of the faith with others.

"People are hungry out there and we have a lot to offer in the Catholic Church," Mary says. "We have a wonderful Church and Jesus is so good. If people only knew."

And just as she turned toward Christ in times of difficulty in her own life, Mary reminds other who are experiencing loss and suffering to do the same.

"Everything that we have is really a gift from God, and our finances can be gone in a microsecond, our health could be gone in a microsecond, our families could be gone in a microsecond," she says. "Everything could be gone and what we're left with is Jesus and we realize that He is the most important part of our life. When things started to go south in my life, everything was going crazy and I realized we must never leave the Lord, we must cling to Him because He's the Truth. If you turn to God, He will provide the answers. It may not be the answers or the time you want, but He will always be there."



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Fr. Vincent Vu *continued from front cover*

He recalls a memorable experience with an old monk at the seminary, who helped him to overcome his shyness.

“My first time meeting with him, we were talking story and he gave me a sign to ‘turn up the volume,’ which meant I was speaking too softly,” Fr. Vincent says. “In my last year at Mount Angel, we talked again, and this time he gave me a sign to ‘turn down the volume’ — this time, he told me I was being too loud! I can never thank the seminary enough for everything they did for me. They helped me to become more mature and deepened my faith in God.”

In 2013, after graduating from Mount Angel, he entered St. Patrick’s Seminary & University in Menlo Park, Calif., to study theology at the graduate level. He began his pastoral ministry at St. Michael in 2017, where Fr. Vincent greatly enjoyed serving the parish community throughout his year-long assignment.

“My most memorable experience was doing labor work with Fr. Lio,” he says. “I helped with maintaining

the church grounds and mowing the lawn. I also helped teach religious education to the youth and fifth-graders, and helped with the Social Ministry to build houses for families. I enjoyed meeting new people and helping in the various ministries.”

Following his assignment at St. Michael, he returned to St. Patrick to finish his graduate degree. Finally, on May 17, Fr. Vincent was ordained at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, his home parish, by Bishop Larry Silva.

“On that day, my family and I were filled with joy and happiness,” he says. “It is a great honor to have a son become a priest for God and His Church. We can only thank the Lord for His great blessing upon our family.”

In July, Fr. Vincent began his first assignment as a priest at St. Jude Catholic Church in Kapolei, O’ahu.

“I am looking forward to working with the pastor and people there, and to get to know them,” he says. “I want to share all the blessings I have with the people there.”

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m. (Hawaiian/English), 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (English), 12:00 noon and 6 p.m. (Spanish)
Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 12 p.m. • Confessions: Saturday 9-9:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Mission: Sunday 8 a.m. • Holy Rosary Mission: Sunday 10 a.m.