

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH AUGUST 2022

COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET
(Created by Earl Walker)

1990's



EXTERIOR OF CHURCH



CELEBRANTS FOR ANNIVERSARY

ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ITS CLERGY

St. John Vianney Parish celebrated its 30th anniversary on Sunday, August 2, 1992 with a special liturgy at 9:00 AM. The Celebration Liturgy included the Pastor, Fr. Joseph Grimaldi, with the following Associate and former Pastors concelebrating: Fr. Patrick Freitas, Fr. Nathan Mamo, Fr. John Newton, Fr. William Breault, and Fr. Marc Alexander with Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu assisting. All were presented ginger and puakinikini lei at the beginning of the service. The church was filled to the maximum with family, friends and many original members of the parish.

The planning committee had arranged for three different gift bearers for this special celebration. The first was Gail Berengue, who represented the founding Pao family. She was escorted by Jim Krause, the Pastoral Council president. The second was John and Gloria Medeiros, who represented the Pastoral Council and the Ladies Sodality. The third gift bearer was Mary Hughes, who represented the Deacons and their wives.

A parish potluck dinner was held in the Parish Hall at 4:00 PM with entertainment, a memory wall and games for children. Parishioners were asked to

bring a main entrée to share, and the parish provided the rice, salad and refreshments. The food coordinator was Al McDermott and parishioners proved that they love to cook, for the food kept arriving. The dishes of various food were placed on the serving tables in the parish hall by members of the Ladies Sodality.

The focal point of the evening was the Memory Wall organized by Gloria Medeiros that was located at the rear of the Parish Hall. The collage of written articles and photographs traced the history of our parish for the past thirty years. Many of our pastors and parishioners had contributed to the history with personal stories. The wall was viewed and admired by many that day. The pictures and articles were later bound into a scrapbook and kept in the parish center.

The Master of Ceremony for the gathering was Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu with after dinner entertainment provided by the St. John Vianney musicians. Robert Mondoy played the piano while the group sang old-time favorites of all ages.

Children's games that were conducted outdoors were planned by Mary and Al Tsukayama, Bill Ing and the Young Christians League.

It was a most enjoyable celebration for the parish.



MASS CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



ADMIRERS OF THE "MEMORY WALL"



ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH CHOIR



33RD ANNIVERSARY POTLUCK DINNER

A PARISH SONG CONTEST

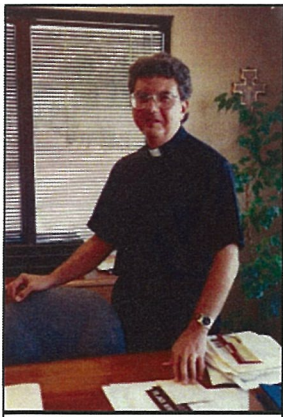
The parish hosted its annual "Thank You" dinner for all who served the parish in leadership roles and lay ministers on January 10, 1993. Barbara Akeo, the parish administrator, organized these special dinners each year in appreciation of their service to the parish. This year, they were treated to a delicious pasta dinner prepared by Ron's Place. The after dinner entertainment was provided by the guests themselves as they competed in the first annual Parish Song Contest. Six teams vied for the crown for the most original or unique performance of all-time classics. Conrad Rico directed the winning team who performed "Joy to the World."

PARISH ANNIVERSARIES IN THE 90'S

St. John Vianney Parish not only celebrates its milestone anniversaries, but also celebrates the anniversary of our parish every year. The founding of our parish is usually celebrated on the weekend preceding the feast day of St. John Vianney with special Masses. During the 1990's the celebrations often had a "theme," and included either breakfast after all Masses, or an evening parish pot luck dinner and sometimes both.

Our 33rd anniversary was celebrated on Sunday, August 6, 1995. The theme of the celebration was "Let us Build the City of God." A special continental breakfast was served after all morning Masses. That evening the festivities continued with a potluck dinner in the parish hall with a program featuring talented performers from the parish. In keeping with the theme, the co-emcees wore construction hardhats and tool belts and performers sang "If I had a Hammer" and "Day by Day." Children of the parish distributed anniversary cards that encouraged each person to help "build the city of God." On the grounds in front of the parish hall was gathered a tremendous number of cardboard boxes which the children were instructed to use to design a beautiful city. The finished product may have looked like a cardboard shanty town, but to the parents and children, it was the City of God. Later in the evening parishioners danced the night away to the sounds of a live band.

The 34th Anniversary of the parish was celebrated on Sunday, August 4, 1996 with the theme "We are Many Parts, We are All One Body." There was a potluck dinner in the parish hall in the afternoon, however it had a somber note, because we were saying good bye to our Pastor of five years, Fr. Joe Grimaldi. However, it was still a celebration as we also welcomed our new pastor, Fr. Tom Gross. Before dinner was served, parishioners were entertained by the local recording group Puamana. The trio sang many old-time favorite songs. Later, parishioners feasted on numerous main dishes and salads. The evening concluded with wishing Fr. Joe good luck in his studies and welcoming Fr. Tom to our parish family.



FR. JOE GRIMALDI

SJV PASTOR

Fr. Joseph A. Grimaldi was a Christian Brother for more than 35 years before beginning his studies for the priesthood. He taught and administered in Catholic high schools from 1962 to 1986. For six of those years, 1974-80, he was principal of Damien Memorial High School in Kalihi.

During his years in Hawaii he considered the priesthood, and five years later, he decided to become a priest for Hawaii. Bishop Ferrario asked him to do his seminary studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Later he was again encouraged by Bishop Ferrario to go to North American College in Rome, where he finished his last year of theology. His first assignment after being ordained in 1990 was as Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Pearl City.

Fr. Grimaldi was appointed the fourth pastor of St. John Vianney in 1991 and came to the parish on August 4th, the feast day of St. John Vianney. He departed the parish in 1996 to study at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Upon his departure, Fr. Tom Gross became our fifth pastor.



BISHOP DILORENZO

BISHOP OF HONOLULU

Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo was the auxiliary Bishop of Scranton, Pa. when Pope John Paul II named him administrator of the Diocese of Honolulu upon the retirement of Bishop Joseph A. Ferrario in 1993. A year later the pope appointed him as the fourth Bishop of Honolulu. Installed

on Nov. 30, 1994, at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa, Bishop DiLorenzo introduced a diocese-wide parish renewal and review program called the "Welcoming Parish." The program involved the bishop visiting each parish for meetings with parishioners and parish leadership, a liturgical celebration and a discussion of the parish's strengths and needs. The bishop also increased and strengthened the diocese's ministry to newly arrived immigrants, and increased the number of clergy from the Philippines.

During his administration, Bishop DiLorenzo steered the Hawai'i Catholic Church through various and often controversial issues. After nearly 11 years in Hawaii, he was appointed by the Holy Father to be Bishop of Richmond, Va.

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS DURING THE 1990'S

- Carmen Himenes
1989 – 1990
- Jean Flynn
1991 – 1997
- Michael Chu
1998 – 2001



Throughout most of the 1990's the principal of our parish school was Jean Flynn. She had a lively spirit and was dedicated to our school. Considered a strict disciplinarian, she earned the respect of the children, teachers and parents. During the '92-93 school year 286 students were enrolled and the school was manned by 25 teachers and staff. In that same year, the school completed the accreditation process and received a full six years accreditation. The accreditation team consisted of members from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, WASC, and the Western Catholic Educational Association, WCEA, who spent many days observing the school and meeting with students, teachers, parents the principal, school staff, School Board and PTSA Board members. Fr. Joe and the parish staff were also interviewed. The school continued to move toward excellence in education and spiritual growth throughout the decade.

The school decided to go to a year-round schedule. in the 95-'96 academic year. Students attended school for the same number of days, but vacations were spread throughout the year instead of concentrated in the three months of summer. Ms. Flynn had spent endless hours of preparation before meeting with parents, faculty and students to educate them about the new program. Their response was overwhelming in favor of the new schedule. SJV parish school was one of the leaders among Hawaii schools in successfully implementing this adjusted school calendar.



SCHOOL MAY DAY CELEBRATION



RUSSIAN RHAPSODY CONCERT



MARDI GRAS PARTY



A NIGHT IN BARCELONA CONCERT



AGE OF AQUARIUS PARTY

PARISH'S SERVICE COMMISSION

In the early days of the parish, social events had to be held off the parish grounds. Mary Jo Meyers, the first chair of the Service Commission, coordinated the annual Anniversary parish picnics at the CYO facility in Hauula. Construction of the Parish Hall and Center in 1986 provided space for new social functions for the parish. The annual Feast Day celebration moved from the beach into the Parish Hall. The Parish Center lanai provided a venue for Fellowship Weekends and 9:00 Mass refreshments, allowing parishioners a chance to know each other better. Under the leadership of Marilyn and Al McDermott, the Service Commission launched new events that included a spring concert and a theme oriented social in the fall.

Starting in the 1990s, Co-Chairs Earl Walker and Gary Wiseman continued the spring concerts and fall events and added an annual Mardi Gras party to the social calendar. The concerts featured the Royal Hawaiian Band and the Ecumenical Chorale, which focused on the music from a particular place. The places featured were Italy, Russia, Barcelona, New York, Paris, Ireland and Portugal. The dinners served at each concert featured special food from each place.

The fall event became a party featuring music from different decades, with parishioners and school students pretending to be famous stars performing lip-synch to pop songs. Some of the titles of the parties were "Rock Around the Clock," "The Age of Aquarius," "Saturday Night Fever," "A Sentimental Journey" and "The Beat Goes On." The meals served at each event highlighted special food from the decade.

The first Mardi Gras party was held in 1995 and featured a live band with food from Louisiana. There were several stages featuring parishioners singing, dancing and performing various acts. There was also a king and queen of Mardi Gras who led a "parade" through the hall. Due to its tremendous popularity, the Mardi Gras celebration has continued for decades.

Over the years the Service Commission has expanded the social calendar of the parish adding Military Appreciation Days, refreshments after the Easter Vigil and Pentecost, Priest and Deacon celebrations, and the Breakfast with the Bishop event.

The major impact of the Service Commission has been to enhance the sense of community at St. John Vianney Parish. It has also assisted the parish's evangelization efforts by providing a fun filled introduction to church life. Young and old have been touched by its efforts. The youngsters who played on the beach in Hauula in the 1960s watched their children and grandchildren perform at the musical tributes. The families that ventured onto the parish center lanai for refreshments in the late 80's welcomed new families to our parish during the 90's.