

October 8, 2023 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bulletin

St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Kailua

WWW.SAINTJOHNVIANNEYHAWAII.ORG | SJVKAILUAPARISH@RCCHAWAII.ORG

920 KEOLU DRIVE, KAILUA, HI 96734 | 808-262-8317 | REV. VINCENT VU, PASTOR

To Jesus Through
Mary
Eucharistic Rosary
Congress
October 7–13, 2023
Our Lady of the
Rosary to the Miracle
of the Sun in Fatima



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marianist Lecture Series—Today at 4 p.m.

God's Mechanics: How Scientists and Engineers Make Sense of Religion
Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 4 p.m. at Chaminade University's Mystical Rose Oratory.
Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J. is the Director of the Vatican Observatory and will speak about the connection between science and religion. He is the author of several popular books including Turn Left at Orion and Would you Baptize an Extraterrestrial?

Diocesan Eucharistic Rosary Congress—Friday, October 13 at St. John Vianney

The Diocese of Honolulu has planned seven days of perpetual devotion to our Eucharistic Lord in the Blessed Sacrament through devotion to His Mother and by meditating on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The congress runs from October 7th, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, to October 13th, the anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima. Each 6-hour shift is reserved by a different parish on every island, religious community or Catholic School. St. John Vianney Church will pray the Holy Rosary every hour on Friday, October 13 from 6 a.m. to noon in the church. All are welcome to spend an hour in prayer this Friday.

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat October 13--15

For Healing After Abortion. Women, men, family members, and anyone wounded by abortion are welcome. Registration and participation on retreat is strictly confidential. A suggested donation of \$150 per person covers room, meals, refreshments and materials. Need-based scholarships are available. Space is limited. To register, contact Lisa Shorba at 808-349-5071 or email her at rvinhawaii@gmail.com. For more information, please visit the website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Trunk or Treat is on Friday, October 27

Our parish will be once again host its popular Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 27th between 6 and 8 p.m. Our parking lot will be transformed into a thrilling arena filled with festively decorated trunks of cars and pickup trucks. Goodies will be distributed to young trick-or-treaters of all ages in a safe, controlled environment. Suggested entry donation is a can of food. For details and to register to host a trunk, please see the flyers in the online bulletin in MyParish app or in the events tab on the parish website.

Please add your departed loved ones names to the books at the front of church

On November 2nd, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, also known as All Souls Day, we will honor all our loved ones who have gone before us in the hope of the Resurrection. There are books placed on the counters on either side of the front doors of the church for you to add names of your loved ones to be remembered and prayed for at the All Souls Day Mass at 7 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The good news of this Gospel is that all we need to do is let God tend us and bring us to produce good fruit. All we need to do is be faithful; God will take care of the rest. Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned. Join us!

Prayers for Healing

Ruth Alves	Emily Lim
Anna Asinsin	Kasey Lopes
Edward Balderston	Mike Lauriano
Jim Balderston	Gloria Malabet
Terry Barnaby	Sandy McAulton
Hayes Beissel	Gloria Medeiros
Clark Bernales	Juan Mendiola
Robert Bernales	Ann Meyer
Bimbo Family	Jack Meyer
Avarose Marie Braga	Beverly Mink
Malia Braga	Bobby Mink
Michelle Brown	Audrey Motonaga
Donovan Caldeira	Hope Montalvo
Sheryl Caldeira	Mary Odom
Rod Castanha	Milagros Pany
Carolyn Chong	Cayetana Paras
Pat Drury	James Reis
Herman Encarnacion	Jean Rich
John Glorioso, Jr	Bill Roman
Tom Glorioso	Antonio Salcedo
Angeline Goh	Par Salehi
Jayla Gomes	Barbara Sladovnik
Milli Gorecki	Deni Smith
Tim Hudson	Bernardo Soriano
Sylvia Ann Pao Kruse	John Sutton
Malia Lambertson	Gabrielle Taylor
Tony Lambio	Terri Taylor
Kailey Jong-Perez	Hedy Windsor
Annette Lewis	

Repose of Soul

+Gaylord Kam, Funeral Mass pending
+Raymonde Pang, Burial on Oct 26
+Victoria Castillo, Funeral Svc on Oct 18
+Kenneth Stevens, Burial on Nov 3
+Juanita Cardus, Funeral Mass in 2024

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a
2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Upcoming Events

- Mon, Oct 9, Parish Office is open
- Fri, Oct 13, 6 a.m.-12 p.m., Diocesan Eucharistic Rosary Congress at SJV
- Fri, Oct 13, 9 a.m.—12 p.m. Seniors' Bingo and potluck in the parish lounge. Bring a bagged gift and food to share.
- Fri, Oct 27, 6—8 p.m. Trunk or Treat event in the SJV parking lot
- Wed, Nov 1, 8 a.m. All Saints Day Mass
- Thu, Nov 2, 8 a.m. Mass All Souls Day 7 p.m. Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
- Fri, Nov 3, 9 a.m. Stretch and Dance with Helen Klein in the Parish Lounge

Use the QR code at the entrance to the church to read the full edition of the Sunday Bulletin online or in my Parish app for more announcements.

Download the music leaflet to sing along during Mass from your smart device.



SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Vianney School students and staff were very happy to shower Fr. Vincent with love and appreciation at our School Mass on Friday, September 29th in honor of Priesthood Sunday! He is such a wonderful member of our school community and an amazing, compassionate leader. There is never an occasion when he is not with us to participate or cheer us on! The love he has for our keiki is evident in everything he does. God was certainly watching out for us when he sent him our way! Mahalo, Fr. Vincent! We all love you.

Our school is currently on Fall Intersession and Fall Break and will return to classes on Monday October 16, 2023. For generations, St. John Vianney School has focused on the values that so many seek in a quality education: superior academic results, faith formation and the building of character, in a safe, caring community where each child is accepted, respected and never lost in the crowd.



MAHALO!

There are many who took part in the project of restoring the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary to its original brilliance. We acknowledge two men. JD Adams (on the right), husband of parishioner Victoria Adams, removed the statue from the grotto niche to the parish basement. A few months later after the painting was done, he and his friend, Mark Mori, placed the statue back in the grotto niche making sure it is secured. We are very grateful to JD and Mark!

CATHOLIC FAITH CORNER

A YEAR OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



The Eucharist and Evangelization

The catechism of the Catholic Church (1324-1327) states that: *“The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life.”* It is meant to be a springboard from which our mission and Christian life flow. However, just like the Church Universal in some parts of the world, we are in a moment of crisis in the Church throughout the United States. One of the biggest is the crisis of disaffiliation, which is so dramatically affecting our country. The responses vary a great deal from various groups of people. There are some who say that they are spiritual and non-affiliated, while others say that they are baptized Catholics, and yet have lapsed or are non-practicing.

We know from the history of the Church that moments of crisis are also moments of profound renewal ready to happen. In this Eucharistic Revival, the hope is that we will be the spark that will light a fire in people by lifting them to come to the center of the faith, which is found in Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, to be strengthened in their relationship with him and to experience healing, conversion and formation, so that they can go out and be ready to stand against the cultural currents of our day.

It’s also true that, in this time of secularization, materialism and a false dichotomy between faith and science that the Church’s teaching on the Eucharist goes directly against those realities. It teaches us to value heavenly things. It teaches us how God comes to inhabit our Earth and transform it. It teaches us how he wants to transform our daily lives through teaching, how to live lives of self-gift as he does for us in the Eucharist. These particular aspects of the Eucharist are very important to the current need for evangelization.



Each day, the Catholic Church in Hawaii shares the Spirit of Christ throughout our ‘Ohana of parishes, schools, social agencies, and communities across the Islands. This is all possible thanks to your generous response to our Catholic mission and the call to Witness to Jesus.

Beyond the good works at each parish, the annual ‘Ohana in Christ appeal helps us respond to the material and spiritual needs of the greater church. Funds raised support many important services and ministries throughout the Diocese of Honolulu that no single faith community could meet alone.

I am deeply grateful for the ways you have contributed to this work in the past. Once again, I humbly ask for you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift to this important appeal. Please know that I pray for you and your loved ones each day - and will remember all donors in a special Mass.

In the Spirit of Christ - and together as an ‘Ohana in Christ - we can and will respond to the Lord’s call and continue to build His Kingdom. Sincerely yours in Christ, Bishop Larry Silva

OFFERTORY Our gifts to God to steward the Church

Week of Sep 23—29, 2023	Envelopes/Loose	Online Giving	Total	Goal	% of Goal
Sunday Offertory	\$2,998.00	\$3,837.00	\$6,835.00	\$8,763.33	78.00%
Repair and Maintenance	\$340.00	\$320.00	\$660.00	\$1,500.00	44.00%
Major Repair and Maintenance	\$0.00	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$576.92	54.60%

Give Online



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thank you for placing the leaflets in the re-cycling box after Mass.

GATHERING SONG

285. Return to God

Refrain



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mer - cy; come
seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

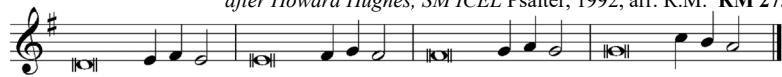
Verses

1. Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;
come and learn now the way of our God.
2. I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you,
a heart of compassion and love.
3. If you break the chains of oppression, if you set the pris'ner free;
if you share your bread with the hungry, give protection to the lost;
give a shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth like the dawn.

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GLORY TO GOD

after Howard Hughes, SM ICEL Psalter, 1992, arr. R.M. RM 27.4



Glory to God in the highest, | and on earth peace to people of good will. || We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, ||| we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, | O God, almighty Father. || Lord Jesus Christ, ||| Only Begotten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, | you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; || you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; ||| you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, | you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, || with the Holy Spirit, ||| in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM



Moderato

Psalm 80⁴

Robert M. Mondoy



The vine - yard of the God of hosts is the
house of Is - ra - el.

1. You brought a vine from Egypt, cleared out nations to plant it; you prepared the ground and made it take root to fill the land.
2. Why have you now torn down its walls? All who pass by steal the grapes, wild boars tear up its roots, and wild beasts devour its fruit.
3. Turn our way, God of might, and see. Cherish the vine which you planted, rest your hand upon your chosen one who draws strength from you.
4. We have not turned from you, Lord God. Give us new life, we invoke you. Restore to us the light of your presence and we shall be saved.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS **Open My Eyes**

1, 5. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face. Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see.

2. Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice. Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear.

3. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you. Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love.

Bridge: And the first shall be last, And our eyes are opened, And we'll hear like never before.

And we'll speak in new ways, And we'll see God's face in places we've never known.

4. I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love. I live within you. Rest now in me. (*Vrs. 1,5. above*) Text & tune: ©1988, 1998, 2001 Jesse Manubisan (b. 1958) & Rufina Zaragoza OFM (b. 1957) Published by OCP publications . All rights reserved.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

Segunda Missa Bossa Nova
Preface Dialogue

RM 127

The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord It is right and just.

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Segunda Missa Bossa Nova
Memorial Acclamation

RM 327

The mys-ter-y of faith. When we eat this bread and drink this cup, and drink this cup, we pro-claim your death, O Lord, we pro-claim your death, O Lord un - til you come a - gain.

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Segunda Missa Bossa Nova
Great Amen

RM 427

A - men, a - men, A - men, a - men, A - men, a - men.

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Segunda Missa Bossa Nova
Holy Holy Holy

RM 227

Ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Segunda Missa Bossa Nova
Final Doxology

SM 527

For the king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours now and for - ev - er.

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Segunda Missa Bossa Nova
Lamb of God

SM 628

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. world, grant us, grant us peace.

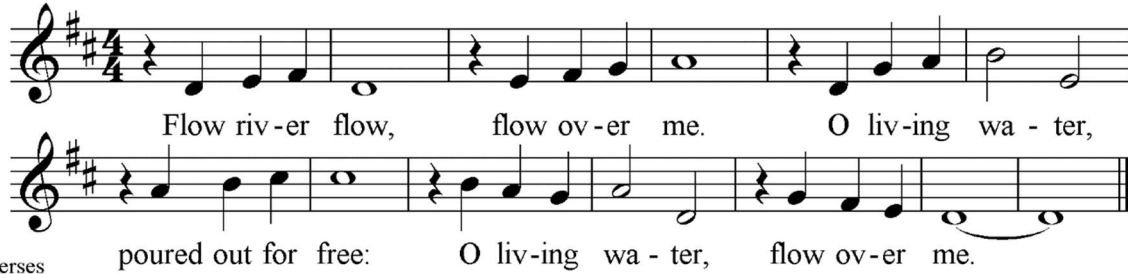
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Please remain standing until the conclusion of the Communion Song

COMMUNION PROCESSION

Flow River Flow

Refrain



Flow riv-er flow, flow ov-er me. O liv-ing wa-ter,
poured out for free: O liv-ing wa-ter, flow ov-er me.

Verses



1. You will be mine and I will be your God. for I will
2. The blind will see, the mute shall find a voice, the lame shall
3. Who-ev-er drinks the wa-ter I will give will nev-er
wash you clean. And a new heart, a heart of flesh and
leap for joy. Riv-ers will flow in-to dry and bar-ren
thirst a - gain. The drink I give is an ev-er-flow-ing
feel-ing, I will place with - in you for your heart of stone.
des-ert: Flow-ers bloom in splen-dor, glo-ry fill the land.
riv-er, well-ing up with - in you to give e - ter-nal life.

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With One Voice

Verses



1. Take the Word and go out to ev - 'ry land: shine the
2. Take the Word to our neigh - bor - hoods and streets: shine the
3. Take the Word to the peo - ple in des - pair: shine the
4. Take the Word to the na - tions ev - 'ry - where: shine the



light of Christ for all to see! May the lives of those we touch
 light of Christ for all to see! May we all set out to live
 light of Christ for all to see! May our ac - tions and our deeds
 light of Christ for all to see! May the wit - ness of our lives



— sing praise to God a - bove. Let us sing, we'll sing:
 — in peace and har - mo - ny. They will see and sing:
 — bring com - fort to their needs. And they'll know and sing:
 — trans - form the world a - new. And we'll shine, we'll shine:

Refrain



With one voice we'll pass the Word a - long; with one



voice, bring jus - tice to the world. And with



all the an - gels we'll spread the good - ness of God. With all



pow - er and glo - ry the Word of God shall reign.

St. John Vianney Parish

Presents

A Eucharistic Revival

To renew us by enkindling a living relationship
with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.



The Eucharist and Evangelization

*To share the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ
with others and invite them to follow Him,
become His disciples, and join His Church*

A year long focus to further educate our parish community and the Kailua community about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist



1. “We become credible witnesses to the joy and transforming beauty of the Gospel only when we recognize that the love we celebrate in this sacrament cannot be kept to ourselves but demands to be shared with all.” **(Pope Francis)**
2. The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is what makes our Catholic faith unique. Staying focused on that truth is key to being able to share our faith with others.
3. Sharing our faith starts with prayer. Each day, call on the Holy Spirit to provide opportunities to share your love for the Eucharist and the words to use.
4. Learn as much as you can about the beauty of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The rich history of this doctrine is the subject of numerous books, broadcasts and even art.
5. Being able to articulate your personal devotion to the Sacrament of the Eucharist is the best defense against those who have different opinions. Learn to be able to say, “I understand why you think that way, but may I share what this Sacrament means to me? “
6. Practice active listening to what others think of our faith. Try repeating what they are saying to make sure you understand their viewpoint. A person with no knowledge of our faith versus a former Catholic will need to have different responses.
7. Be able to share what the Saints have said about the Eucharist, starting with our own St John Vianney, “ There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us!”
8. Actively participate in the National Eucharistic Revival, a uniting movement that is gathering up sparks and fanning them into flames throughout our country. Become a part of this movement and be willing to invite others to join you on the journey.
9. Consider attending the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. Catholics of all ages will gather in Indianapolis, IN next July 17–21, 2024 to worship our Risen Lord in a way our country hasn’t seen in 83 years.
10. The end of the Gospel of Matthew recounts the saving and astonishing resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Jesus commands the disciples who have been with him throughout his public ministry, “Do not be afraid! Go and tell my brothers to set out!” and later, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations!” **(Mt 28:10, 19).**

Our Parish Faith Formation Committee encourages
all parishioners to learn more
about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

To Jesus Through Mary

Eucharistic Rosary Congress

In the Honolulu Diocese

October 7-13, 2023

Our Lady of the Rosary to the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima

7 days of perpetual devotion to our Eucharistic Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, through devotion to His Mother and the Holy Rosary.

Each 6-hour shift is reserved by a different parish on every island, religious community or Catholic school.

6-hour shifts are:

6am-12pm

12pm-6pm

6pm-12/midnight

12/midnight-6am

For more information contact Cami Adams at

camikjmj@gmail.com

Ph# 808-721-2307



Registrations are now being accepted for the October 2023 Retreat!

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreats



**Healing the Pain of Abortion...
One Weekend at a Time.**

If you or a friend are hurting from a past abortion and are searching for a confidential, non-judgmental, safe place of healing and support to express and reconcile painful emotions and begin the healing process, look no further... and join us on our next retreat!

Both women and men are impacted by abortion and greatly benefit from the retreats. Singles, couples and family members of aborted children have come to Rachel's Vineyard for peace and inner healing. Call us today if you need someone to talk to.

Retreats are held at a private retreat center for 3 days and 2 nights. The retreat fee of \$175.00 covers accommodations, daily meals/snacks, and materials. Space is limited. Registrations & Retreats are strictly confidential. Need-based scholarships are available.

Upcoming Retreat Date: October 13-15, 2023

(Arrive on Friday at 5:30pm; Depart on Sunday at 5:00pm)

To Register, call Lisa at: (808) 490-4702

or E-mail: RvinHawaii@gmail.com

Registrations are Strictly Confidential.

More info at: www.rachelsvineyard.org

Rachel's Vineyard is the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion.

A Ministry of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii's Respect Life Office and Priests For Life

© 2023 Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Hawaii



'Ohana in Christ

THE ANNUAL APPEAL *for the* CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HAWAII

September 2023

Aloha to All,

Peace be with you!

*May the Spirit of Christ be our hope through the day,
be our guard through the night, our companion on the way.*

Song of St. Patrick, Marty Haugen

Each day, the Catholic Church in Hawaii shares the Spirit of Christ throughout our 'Ohana of parishes, schools, social agencies, and communities across the Islands. This is all possible thanks to your generous response to our Catholic mission and the call to Witness to Jesus.

Beyond the good works at each parish, the annual **'Ohana in Christ** appeal helps us respond to the material and spiritual needs of the greater church. As detailed in the list below, funds raised support many important services and ministries throughout the Diocese of Honolulu that no single faith community could meet alone.

I am deeply grateful for the ways you have contributed to this work in the past. Once again, I humbly ask for you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift to this important appeal. Please know that I pray for you and your loved ones each day - and will remember all donors in a special Mass.

In the Spirit of Christ - and together as **'Ohana in Christ** - we can and will respond to the Lord's call and continue to build His Kingdom.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu



P.S. For more information on how to live out the Church's mission, or to make a gift to help your parish reach its 'OIC goal, please visit catholicahawaii.org. MAHALO!

Your donations are critical in helping to provide these ministries and services:

Priests & Deacons

- Professional development
- Recruitment & assignment
- Permanent Deacon Formation
- Clergy health & wellness needs

Parish Services

- Staffing & Training
- Finance & Insurance
- Savings & Loan
- Safe Environment
- Stewardship & IT
- Cemetery & Real Estate
- Emergency Preparedness

People Programs

- Youth & Young Adult
- Catholic Schools
- Adult Faith Training
- Catholic Social Ministry
- Food & Shelter Assistance
- Evangelization & Respect Life
- Hospital & Prison Ministries

And Much More

- Hawaii Catholic Herald & Diocesan eCommunications
- Cathedral Basilica, Chancery, & St. Stephen Diocesan Center
- Pope Francis & United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



'Ohana in Christ FAQs

THE ANNUAL APPEAL *for the* CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HAWAII

1. What is 'Ohana in Christ ('OIC)?

'OIC is the Annual Appeal for the Catholic Church in Hawaii. In fiscal year 2021/2022, it replaced the former Bishop's Circle Appeal to help provide needed funding for diocesan ministries, programs, and services formerly funded by the With Grateful Hearts Capital Campaign - and other efforts that individual parishes cannot sustain on their own.

2. How is 'Ohana in Christ different from the Bishop's Circle Appeal?

Along with an enhanced effort to raise awareness of the diocesan mission and financial needs - parishes are assigned a "target goal" based on their annual assessment. This year parishes are required to raise a minimum of 75% of their target goal. Parishes that fall short of the minimum will be responsible for the difference at the end of the fiscal year.

3. Parishes already pay a hefty annual assessment - isn't that enough?

Parish assessment fees provide significant funding for the diocesan mission - covering many expenses, but not all. The 'OIC Appeal helps close the gap in the annual diocesan budget.

4. What are some specific examples of what my donation will help support?

Along with the ministries, programs, and services listed on the front, your donations help support the diocesan offices and affiliated entities responsible for providing them to our faith communities and beyond.

5. Is there consideration for parishes facing significant financial challenges?

Prior to the current fiscal year, parishes have the opportunity to appeal the minimum goal requirement by submitting a written request to Bishop Larry.

6. Where does my gift go and how is it managed?

Donations given directly to 'OIC are received, processed, and acknowledged by the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF). Donations given at the parish level are forwarded to HCCF and credited accordingly. In turn, HCCF also oversees management of the funds and their allocations to the diocese in support of the diocesan mission.

7. Are donations to 'Ohana in Christ tax deductible?

Yes, to the extent allowable by law. For specific information, please consult your financial advisor. To make a gift today, please visit: CatholicHawaii.Org or mail your check to 'Ohana in Christ, PO Box 380019, Honolulu, HI 96838-0019. For gifts by credit card or otherwise, call the HCCF Gifts Office at (808) 372-3472.



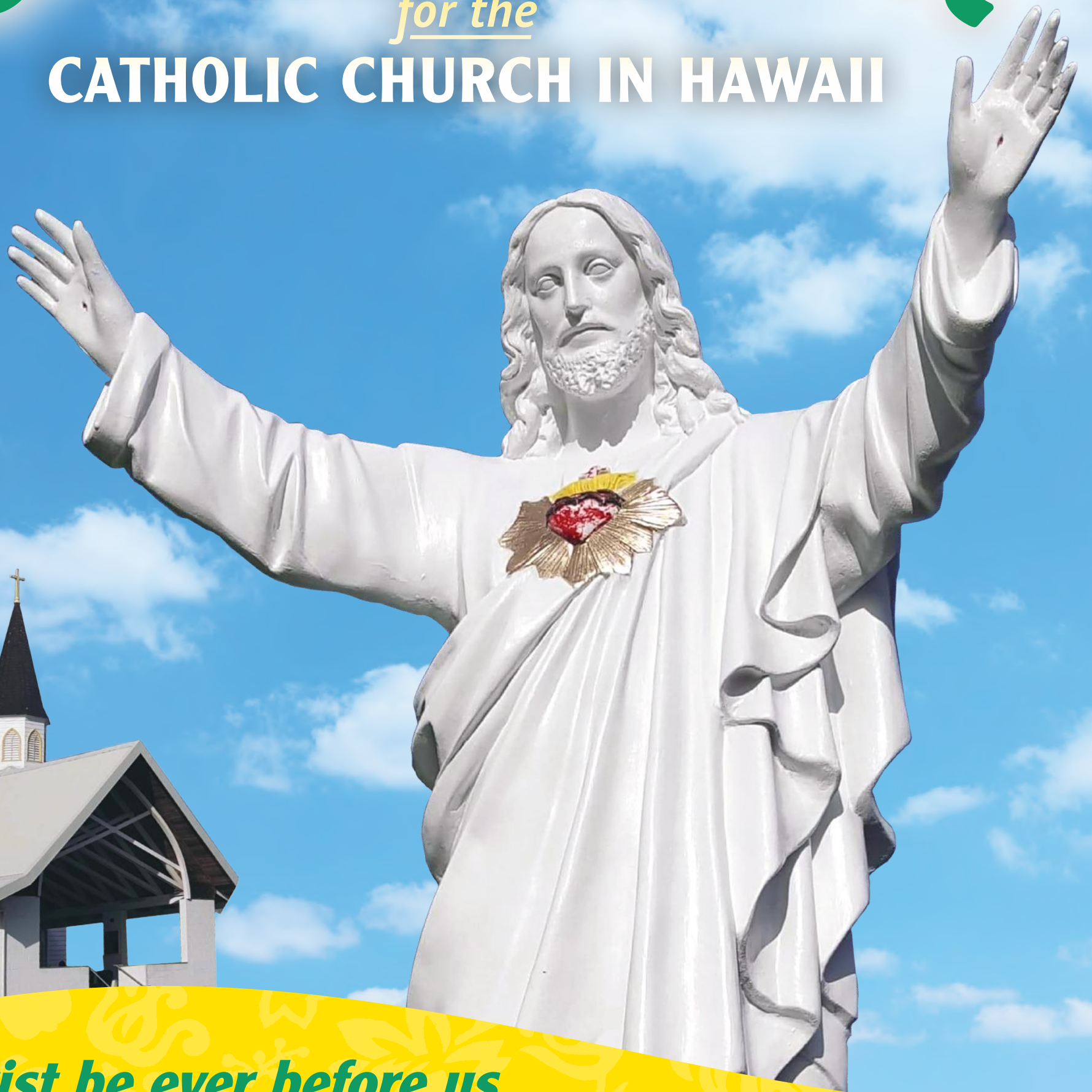
MAHALO for your Generous Support - All Gifts are Important and Appreciated

‘Ohana in Christ

ANNUAL APPEAL

for the

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HAWAII



Christ be ever before us

Christ be ever behind us

Christ be ever within



Please support your Diocesan Church and our many Catholic ministries and services by contributing to the 2023-2024 Appeal. Mahalo for your generous Stewardship of Treasure. All gifts are important and appreciated. Give online at CatholicHawaii.org.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

Living Radical Solidarity

OCTOBER 2023

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Since 1973, the year the Supreme Court legalized abortion nationwide in *Roe v. Wade*, the month of October has been set aside by the U.S. bishops as a time to focus on protecting God's precious gift of human life. While we thank God that the terrible reign of *Roe* has ended, we also recognize that abortion still continues in most states and is aggressively promoted at the federal level. A great many prayers, sacrifices, and good works are still desperately needed to transform a culture of death into a culture of life. Our public witness, our marching, and our advocacy must continue, yet laws alone will not end the tragedy of abortion.

While ending legalized abortion remains our preeminent priority, the most immediate way to save babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with life-giving support and personal accompaniment. This is radical solidarity.

St. John Paul II first defined "radical solidarity" in this way: "*In firmly rejecting 'pro-choice' it is necessary to become courageously 'pro woman,' promoting a choice that is truly in favor of women. ... The only honest stance, in these cases, is that of radical solidarity with the woman. It is not right to leave her alone.*"¹

Being in radical solidarity with women who are pregnant or raising children in difficult circumstances means putting our love for them into action and putting their needs before our own. Pope Francis reminds us that solidarity "refers to something more than a few sporadic acts

of generosity. It presumes the creation of a *new mindset*," a transformation within our own hearts.²

This new mindset requires that we come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their preborn children. It means addressing the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her.

This includes collective efforts within our dioceses, parishes, schools and local communities, engagement in the public square, and pursuit of policies that help support both women and their preborn babies. It all the more so requires our individual, personal commitment to helping mothers in our own communities secure material, emotional, and spiritual support for embracing the gift of life. Radical solidarity means moving beyond the status quo and out of our comfort zones.

Our parish-based and nationwide initiative, [Walking with Moms in Need](#), for example, provides easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions to help transform our parishes into places of welcome, support, and assistance for pregnant and parenting mothers facing difficulties. Melissa, a [North Carolina mom](#)³ with young children and a busy



job, attended a parish informational session for *Walking with Moms in Need*, thinking she might help out here and there. But she felt the Lord's call and "by the end of the session she had volunteered to be the ministry's coordinator." Her parish now holds "Hand Up Days" once a month during which families can "shop" free of charge for baby and toddler items they need that have been donated by parishioners.

Melissa shared some powerful words of encouragement: "I think for too long we have been comfortable leaving the work of accompanying women in crisis situations – pregnant or parenting – to others in the nonprofit and government sectors. It is very clear in the Gospel that this is our job — all of us! A woman in a pregnancy center once told me that most women considering abortion are wrestling with a financial matter less than \$250 and that has really stuck with me. If we can lighten the burden just a little, what a difference we can make — it is literally life or death."

God has given each of us particular gifts, and with those gifts He entrusts us with a role and duty within the Body of Christ. Embracing an attitude of radical solidarity calls us to honestly reflect on some challenging questions and to consider specific actions we can take to foster an authentic culture of life. Some questions we might ask ourselves could include: *Do I know what efforts are happening in my area to help women who are pregnant or parenting in difficult circumstances? What are the needs? What are my gifts and talents? How can I adjust my schedule or budget to assist efforts to help moms in need and their children?* Radical solidarity can be lived out in countless ways, including volunteering at your local pregnancy center;



helping an expectant mother find stable housing; babysitting so a mom can work or take classes; providing encouragement and a listening ear to a mom without a support system; or speaking to your pastor about beginning *Walking with Moms in Need* at your parish.

In addition to enshrining pro-life laws and policies, the transformation of our culture also requires continual conversion of our *own* hearts, so that we can recognize in every person the face of Christ and place their needs before our own.

And so, this October, I invite all Catholics to think about building a culture of life in terms of radical solidarity. We are the Church. Our prayers, witness, sacrifices, advocacy, and good works are needed now, more than ever. We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world today and we each have a personal responsibility to care for one another.

For more information on how to celebrate Respect Life Month and stand in radical solidarity with moms in need, please visit respectlife.org/celebrate.

1 Pope John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, p. 207.

2 Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, no. 188.

3 Elizabeth Ascik, "One of the Best Ways to Walk with Moms in Need," *Aleteia*, March 23, 2023, <https://aleteia.org/2023/03/22/one-of-the-best-ways-to-walk-with-moms-in-need/>.

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