



The Journey

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record



December 2017

Kupuna Fun Day

FUN



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photos by Fr. David Blanchett





Father Gregory Johnson

A Pastor's Prayer

All Hallows Eve 2017

The text is taken from a sermon delivered by The Rev. Professor Gregory Johnson, Rector (Senior Pastor) of St. Mary Episcopal Church, Honolulu, Hawaii, on Reformation Sunday 2017.

Opening Prayer: Life can be confusing, Lord; friends turn out to be enemies; enemies turn out to be friends. Help us sort it all out, so we can not only identify the saints among us, but also the wolves who prefer to dress up in sheep's clothing; for it is in the name of the Good Shepherd that we pray. AMEN.

500 years ago today, a college professor nailed 95 disputations upon the door of a chapel in a castle of a country known not only for its beer, bread, and bratwurst, but also its cakes, creams, and cheeses.

Several of these disputations were written in the form of questions like, "Why doesn't the richest man in the church use his own money to build St. Peter's, rather than drain the pockets of the poor?" (1) Complaints like these about the pope from an Augustinian monk who suffered from nausea, constipation, headaches, depression, kidney stones, gout, anxiety, and nightmares in which Satan repeatedly punched him, drew the wrath of Mother Church, who called the troublemaker a bunch of bad names; the nicest of which was "dimwit." (2) Your rector has been called a lot of names too, including "rebel" and "misfit." Our quincentennial son of thunder, however, whose youth was spent in blue-collar towns where men worked hard all day and drank hard all night, would call your rector something like "milk toast," for there is nothing your priest has done or said that comes remotely close to translating the New Testament from Greek to German in 120 days, or nailing 95 theses on a chapel door. (3) If this third-generation preacher thought the church would actually change, he might also nail a few disputations to the door of our diocesan office with questions like: "Why does a diocese, which takes half a million dollars over the course of a decade from a parish that's bleeding red ink, not promote and empower that same congregation's good-faith attempt to achieve long-term financial stability?" (4) The church, it seems, as an institution, will always be reluctant to change. It is, as most institutions are, self-serving, hierarchical, complicit, regressive, and consumed by the politics of administration and working one's way up the proverbial corporate ladder. Religious prelates attracted by lucrative incomes and the power and prestige that goes with it, for example, will seldom sacrifice their own self-interests for the greater good of their own communicants, much less the poor or the politically disenfranchised.

The flagrant disregard for the financial sacrifices that sustain religious institutions is mindboggling. We've never even received a "Thank You" card, for instance, from the diocese for any of the estimated 2 million dollars we've given it over the course of our life together as a community of faith. Quite the contrary. We're supposed to feel grateful instead when the diocese lowers our tax rate to 18%. (5) The church's insatiable appetite for raising money from those who can least afford it was too much for Luther, who learned how to stretch a buck raising a dozen or so kids with an escaped nun who had run away from her convent. Several of the children, by the way, that Martin and Katarina raised lost their parents during the plague. (6) With all the pain, suffering, hypocrisy, deceit, and corruption that infected the professor's life, it's not surprising that Martin became increasingly bitter. Who wouldn't if a representative of the Vatican claimed you were "conceived when the Devil raped your mother in an outhouse"? (7) What self-respecting, hard-working blue-collar worker wouldn't retaliate by calling Pope Leo an "Antichrist," or Pope Paul a "pig." (8) However tempting or justified it may be, St. Mary's has thankfully chosen not to replicate the slanderous language of the 16th century, nor use the vulgarity of someone who's seen too many Hollywood movies. We don't even ask for, or receive, a dime from the diocese. All we want in exchange

for all we've given is the opportunity to request proposals for the development of our property. What we want from the diocese is encouragement rather than obstruction. The love of Christ rather than the fear of failure. Otherwise the "thieves," as Luther called his adversaries (I would prefer a term like conciliary) will simply wait until a parish like ours becomes a mission, and the council is able to control all the land beneath our feet without our consent. (9) Let us pray that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will not let that happen. In the Name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

(1) The 86th of 95 "theses" posted on October 31, 1517 by Martin Louder/Luther: November 10, 1483 - February 18, 1546; (2) Joan Acocella, How Martin Luther Changed the World, New Yorker magazine, October 30, 2017 issue;

(3) "Son of thunder:" While walking to law school in 1505, Luther encountered a frightening thunderstorm. During the storm he cried out in fear, "If you help me, St. Anna, I'll become a monk;" Luther became a monk that same year and a priest in 1507; Luther began to translate the New Testament in November 1521, and completed it in March 1522; (4) Fr. Gregory's paternal grandfather and father were ordained clergy; one a church planter and tri-state superintendent (EFCA); the other a command chaplain (USAF); (5) St. Mary's was founded in 1902; this "tax" is technically referred to as an "assessment;" even though, to paraphrase an expression, it sounds like a tax, looks like a tax, and feels like a tax; (6) Katharina von Bora (January 29, 1499 - December 20, 1552); Katharina spent time in Benedictine & Cistercian convents; (7) Eric Metaxas, Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World, October 3, 2017; (8) Pope Leo the Tenth: Leo's papacy began 9 March 1513, and ended 1 December 1521; Pope Paul the Third: Paul's papacy began 13 October 1534, and ended November 10, 1549; (9) "Thieves:" From Table Talk: a collection of Martin Luther's sayings around the dinner table; first published in 1566.

Reformation Appeal Succeeds

A Pastor's Prayer Answered

After Fr. Gregory delivered his reformation sermon on Reformation Sunday, October 29th, and posted its text as "A Pastor's Prayer" on Facebook on All Hallow's Eve, October 31st, the Diocesan Council answered our prayer by voting to forgo all congregational assessments for the month of December 2017. In his message to the diocese on November 18th, Bishop Fitzpatrick wrote, "I asked the members to consider forgiving the December assessment." This is the first known act of its kind in the history of our diocese. The Bishop went on to write, "I am proud of the faithful giving of God's people and of the good stewardship of our Diocesan leaders." What a wonderful way for us to celebrate the quincentennial of Martin Luther's historic appeal!

Kupuna Ministry November 18, 2017



Kimery Ushijima
*Coordinator,
Kupuna Ministry*

With the help from Dara, Denise, Jackie, Charlene, Jan, Laurie, Richert and Jeff, Father Gregory, Father David, Deacon Honey and Kimery we did our first Kupuna Gathering at St. Mary's Church.

With everyone's help and expertise we made a most enjoyable event that had our Kupuna's talking about it the next day.

It started with the fantastic music book that Richert made with our old kine Hawaiian tunes that we did hear for years. Richert and Jeff had them all singing even the quiet ones.

We ordered food and served them lunch. We prepared an emergency kit in a plastic folder that contains emergency numbers that they can put on the refrigerator and a few essentials. Then we had a emergency box with just a few handy things that you may need.

Of course we had to play Bingo and there were lots of prizes for everyone. Mahalo to all who help make it and attended it.

Kimery Ushijima

Each Kupuna Received Items Below



Emergency Kit - various food & water plus first aid kit/ flashlight /wipes / list of Emergency phone # w/magnets to attach to any steel material, wallet contact card (Red Cross) & contact card to leave in car (AAA)



photos by Laurie Lee

A Note From Jan

A lovely and fun luncheon! Please share the photos I took. Thank you to the Committee who worked so hard and made it all happen. Everyone had a great time and the food was yummy. . I hope everyone enjoyed the Sushi Rice that Ed made. The table decorations were all from Good Sam's yard.



Janice Motoshige





Sunday following Kupuna Fun Day, Fr. Gregory along with the congregation thanked all the Kupuna Ministry volunteers.

Not present in photo on left are, Charlene Date and Father Blanchett

photo left by Fr. David Blanchett

St. Mary's Kupuna Ministry Team honored for their Kupuna Fun Day volunteer service



**Photos
by
Jan**



Care Giver Sunday



Fr. Gregory Johnson, Rector



We honor our Care Givers

Our Priest



Fr. David H. Blanchett



Edith & Frank St Jean

Our Guest

Visitors from Las Vegas, Nevada

Celebrating their 6th Anniversary



Two new to us Deacons

Fr. Gregory Johnson welcomes our new deacons, The Reverend Honey Becker and The Reverend Ron Nelson



Office, Worship Sanctuary and Chapel





Reverend Ron and Luci Nelson

Who is Deacon Ron Nelson?

I was born on October 17, 1938, a beautiful Fall day in Faribault, Minnesota 79 years ago. My home town was named after Alexander Faribault, a French fur trapper who opened a Indian Trading Post at the confluence of two rivers, the Cannon and the Straight. My mother Marie was Catholic and my father Edwin was Lutheran. I went to Catholic grade school, high school and College and eventually graduated as a Dentist from the University of Minnesota in 1963.

I went to church every Sunday with my mother while my father played golf. He converted to the Roman Catholic faith upon the birth of his first grand child.

After graduation from dental school I entered the US Navy as a dental officer with my wife Luci and 3 children in tow. We enjoyed 26 years of Navy life with our 4 children and many new friends.

During this time I received the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a small church in North Chicago, Illinois while I was alone in prayer. From that time on, I felt called to serve others in need such as Jail and prison Ministry, homeless needs, post abortion damaged men

and women, leading men's prayer groups, bible study in my home and many other outreaches. I applied twice to enter the Deacon formation while in the Navy but was turned down because I was not in that area long enough to complete the studies. Luci and I retired from the Navy and moved to Hawaii in 1985. I continued to work as a civilian dentist and Luci as Registered Family Nurse Practitioner .

Our parents were getting older and beginning to fail so we left our beautiful Hawaii and returned to Minnesota to care for Luci's mother with severe diabetes and my Father with Alzheimer's disease. Immediately upon arrival I was accepted into the Diaconate Program at the St. Paul Catholic Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was ordained in September 1999 at the St Paul Cathedral. I worked with a dental group in my hometown, Faribault, Minnesota. I was assigned as a Deacon to my home parish, Immaculate Conception. Luci and I returned to Hawaii with my mother Marie in 2005 and had assignments in parishes through out Oahu including Our Lady of Peace Basilica in downtown Honolulu. I spent the last 6 years as a deacon at Sacred Heart parish and retired in 2016.

After the reality of retirement set in I realized that I still had a lot of energy to contribute so I thought I would try something different so we attended mass at St. Mary's of Mo'ili'ili. After attending about a month we asked Fr. Johnson if we could serve his parish. He greeted us with open arms and Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick formally accepted us into the Episcopal Church in April, 2017.

Luci and I are very overwhelmed by the welcoming we have received by the St. Mary's community, it's staff and the huge amount of different outreach programs that exist in this small Faith community. Our lives have been renewed and enriched by your support and encouragement. Thank you all and may God continue to bless us all. The rest is History.

Your Servant, Deacon Ron Nelson

We have much to be thankful for



Thanksgiving at Deacon Ron's House with I Nam, Rose and Luci.

Family Friends Neighbors and Church



To my fellow Clergy, Friends, Neighbors and St Mary's Communicants

Have you ever thought that you would be here at the end the year of 2017? We have journeyed 17 years since the year 2000!

Rev. Martha Blanchett
Ecumenical Associate

You have witness some who have left us for Heavenly greater pasture, those who have left to further their journey on the mainland, and those who journey still here to carry on the torch.

Now we are embarking onto 2018! Many of us may have thought we would never see 17 years pass 2000. While some may still be thinking, "when will we ever see spaceships, etc?", God has brought us this far by faith and has keeps us going ahead to further His kingdom. No matter what our background may be or ethnicity, we are all children of the Almighty God! May you all be richly blessed and be held in the center of His Almighty hand continuously. Have yourself and yours a very special Season and into the New Year of 2018!!! Blessings to all!!!

Rev Martha Nanuqak Blanchett

Unfortunately the unthinkable can and dose happen gun violence in the church

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili feels our congregation must have an emergency response plan for potentially violent individuals or incidents. Soon the Rector or his designee will be soliciting a team to assess our church's needs and any special considerations or risks that need to be address. SMOM desires to have a plan in place to respond to a violent incident and to communicate that plan to the congregation. The thinking is: educating the congregation about our response plan will decrease confusion, and possibly save lives.

Help us set up procedure for responding to gun violence at St. Mary's.

Ordination Process

Congratulations Preston Lentz Candidate for Holy Orders



Preston Lentz, Candidate for Holy Orders



Pablo Cortez, Aspirant

Ordination process begins with the nomination of an individual by the person's congregation and continues with a period of formation, overseen by the Commission on Ministry.

Individual meets with a discernment committee for support and ongoing discernment of God's call.

Presently at St. Mary's of Mo'ili'ili we have three individuals in the ordination process:

Preston Lentz: *Candidate for Holy Orders*, **Frank Condello II:** *postulant* and **Pablo Cortez** who is an *Aspirant*.



Frank Condello II, Postulant

Fund Raiser for Hurricane relief



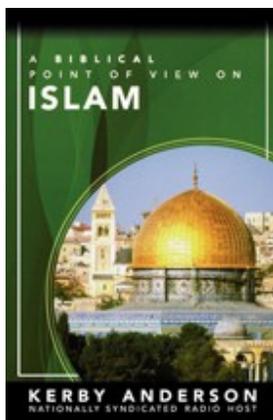
Check for \$1000 was sent to Episcopal Relief and Development in November in support of recent devastating US Hurricanes: Harvey's destruction in Texas and Louisiana; Irma's destruction on US and Caribbean islands

Photo shows Pablo Cortez, Fr. Gregory Johnson, Rev. Honey Becker and Frank Condello II.

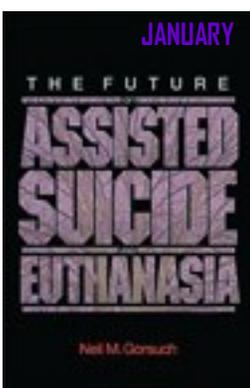
photos by David Blanchett

Book-of-the-Month Club 2018

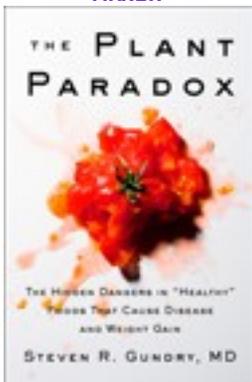
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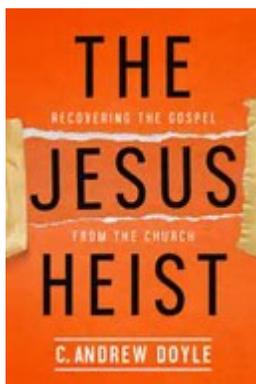
JANUARY



MARCH



MAY



JULY

A Biblical View on Islam
Kerby Anderson – January 27, Saturday

Martin Luther:
The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World

Eric Metaxas – February 24, Saturday

The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Judge Neil Gorsuch – March 31, Saturday

Hacks

Donna Brazile – April 28, Saturday

The Plant Paradox

Dr. Steven Gundry – May 26, Saturday

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

Yuval Harari – June 30, Saturday

The Jesus Heist

C. Andrew Doyle - July 28, Saturday

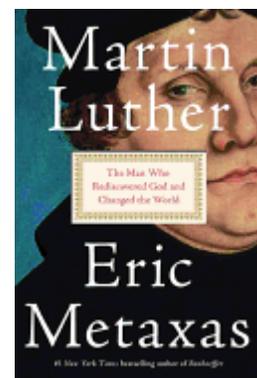
Disconnected: How to Reconnect Our Digitally Distracted Kids

Thomas Kersting - August 25, Saturday

Cramming for the Finals:

New Ways of Looking at Old Church Ideas

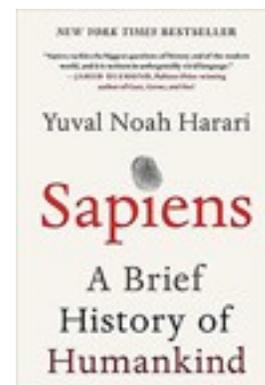
William Aulenbach – September 29, Saturday



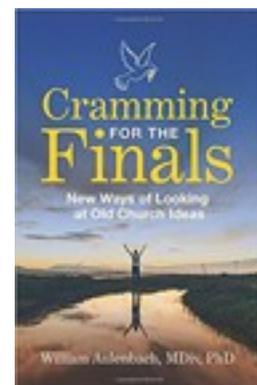
FEBRUARY



APRIL

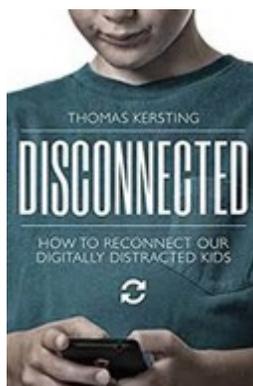


JUNE



SEPTEMBER

10:00-11:30 am



AUGUST

Conference Room

Road Map



An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

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Web: <http://www.stmaryshawaii.org>



Mo'ili'ili Homeless Outreach Service

December 28 - 10am
Volunteers report at 9am



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist 9:00am

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols 10:00pm

Aloha Hour Bible Study

10:00am Sundays in
Gathering Room

Vestry Meeting

Sunday, December 17th
10:15am
Conference Room

Wednesdays 10:00 AM
December 6 & 13
Gathering Room

Evensong

Friday September 8th
6:00pm Soldier Chapel
Reception 6:30pm



December Birthdays January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 16-Rachel May | 3-William Mok |
| 18-Joe Pang | 7-Betty Hirozawa |
| 20-Jackie Uahinui | 9-Ellen Hew |
| 22-Leah Condello | 14-Fannie Kono |
| 23-Charis Mok | 15-Frank Condello II |
| 23-Dara Tawarahara | 16-Murray Cohen |
| 28-Sets Kouchi | 23-Jay Hester |
| 31-Rev. David Blanchett | 26-Isaiah Horimoto |

Free Health Classes

ZUMBA CLASS

Saturdays 8:30am
Gathering Room

YOGA

Tuesdays 10:00am
Gathering Room

TAI CHI

Sundays 8:00am
Front Lawn

To Receive
The Journey contact:
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JOURNEY EDITOR:
Fr. David H. Blanchett



Office Closed December 25 and January 1