



Vision of Mission: A Home for children

Hilda Van Deerlin had a dream of adding a home for the destitute, and orphaned children to the Mission where these children could be raised as Christians. The January, 1916 issue of the Chronicle tells about her idea for such a home "where love and not institutionalism would reign." She suggested that a wing be added to the Mission House to provide a kitchen and dining room on the first floor and sleeping accommodations on the second.

a dream for a while. Miss Hilda was given some staff assistance when her sister Margaret arrived from the Mainland in 1917 and was assigned to the mission that fall. They would be ready when the home became a reality. In September of the following year, the first three girls were accepted for residence at the Mission. This was a good beginning but the orphanage was not a reality by the time Bishop Restarick retired in 1920.

Construction of the home would remain



CHARACTERS IN THE CHRISTMAS PLAY AT ST. MARY'S MISSION



Children at St. Mary's Home



ST. MARY'S HOME FOR CHILDREN



1920's: expansion of the home

The Rt. Rev. John LaMothe, who succeeded Bishop Restarick in 1921 as the next Bishop of the Missionary District of Honolulu, agreed with Hilda Van Deerlin that St. Mary's Mission should add an orphanage to its premises. As a modest beginning, a sleeping lanai was added to the Mission House in November, 1921. That made it possible to add four more children to the orphanage. Those accepted were from the poorest of families, and new clothes had to be sewn for them in order that they would appear presentable in class.

Bishop LaMothe took an active interest in the work at St. Mary's and in due time, construction of two new wings to the Mission House was underway. By October, 1927, the work was completed and the population at the orphanage would increase. One of the wings was named for May L. Restarick, wife of the retired Bishop, and the other for Louise Folsom, the pioneer staff member. A policy change was made at that time to accept boys and girls from the same family so as to keep brothers and sisters together in the orphanage. The retired Bishop helped raise funds to build another building with a large room that was used for kindergarten classes and for weekly baby clinics. There was also a dispensary, a bedroom and servants' quarters. This building was named after the retired Bishop.

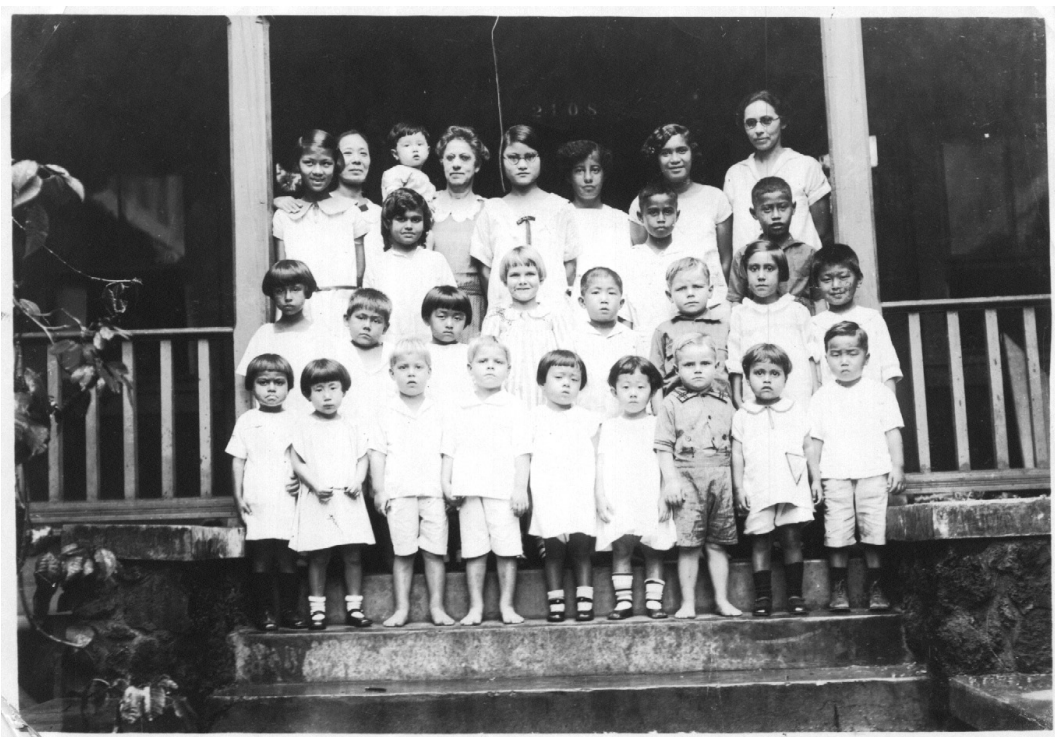
Relatives of the children provided some support to the orphanage as did church organizations and the Court of Domestic Relations for the children it sent. In 1926, the orphanage became a member of the Honolulu Council of Social Agencies. The following year, the United Welfare Fund added the home to its list of participating agencies.

Bishop LaMothe made a change in the

management of the Home around this time. The story goes that he was visiting with Lawrence McCully Judd, a member of St. Andrew's Cathedral who would be appointed Territorial Governor in 1929. The future governor told the Bishop that he was carrying just too heavy a burden of the Church's work, and that he should rely more on the men and women of the Diocese. After further informal discussion, the Bishop accepted Judd's suggestion that he rely more on the members of his church. "I am going to start with you and make you head of a managing board for St. Mary's." The prominent church member accepted on the spot. The result was the installation of a board of managers, which started a proper accounting system for St. Mary's Mission, provided for increased grants from the United Welfare Fund, and made sure that the orphanage received many needed items for providing a home-like atmosphere for the children. The Bishop, for his part, would come occasionally to St. Mary's to mow the lawn and even take up the paint brush where needed. Hilda Van Deerlin used to say that this was the way the Bishop relaxed.

One indication that the mission was having its influence is found in the story of Seichi, a young Japanese lad. He had been baptized one Christmas. A week or so later, he was walking to Sunday School when he came upon some boys who were going to Buddhist Sunday School. He invited them to come with him to Sunday School at St. Mary's. When they all got to St. Mary's, Seichi told his teacher that he told them St. Mary's was a better Sunday School, and they came with him.

The figures showed that St. Mary's Mission had quite an impact on the lives of the people in and around Moiliili. A total of 350 had been baptized up to then and 181 of them had been confirmed. The home was beginning to have a great influence on the growth of the work at the mission, "Some



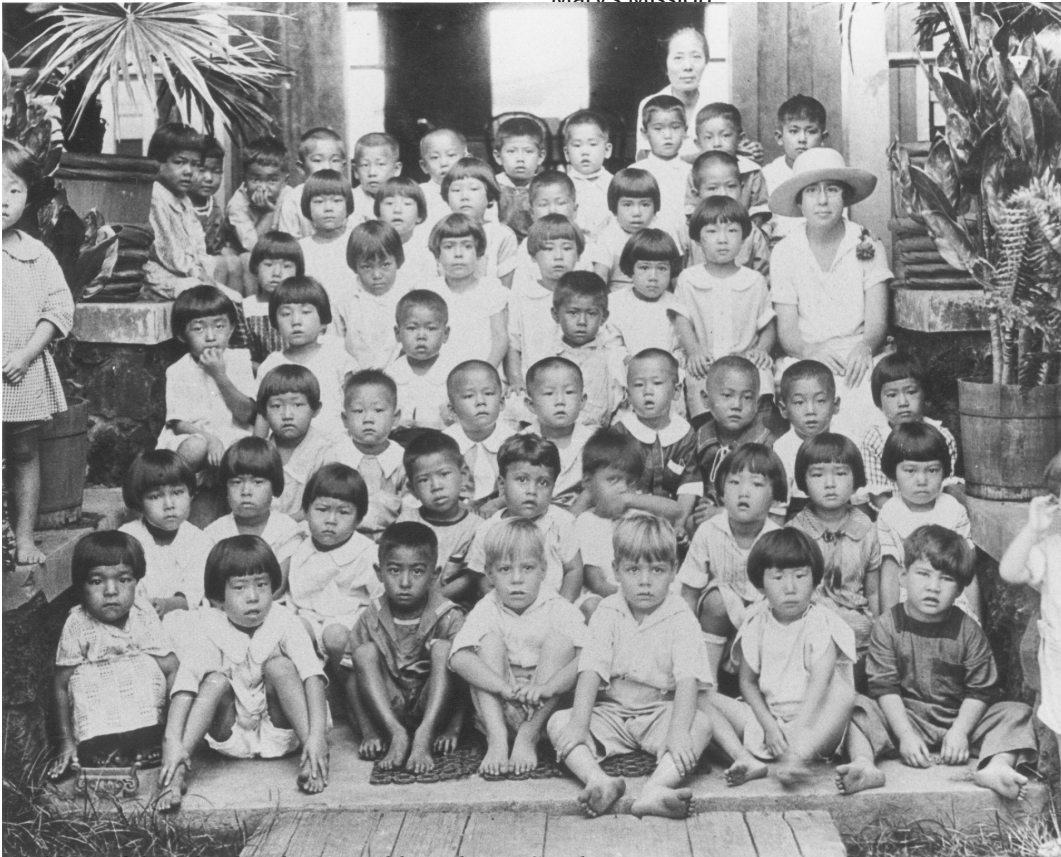
Children of St. Mary's Home with Sarah Chung and Hilda Van Deerlin



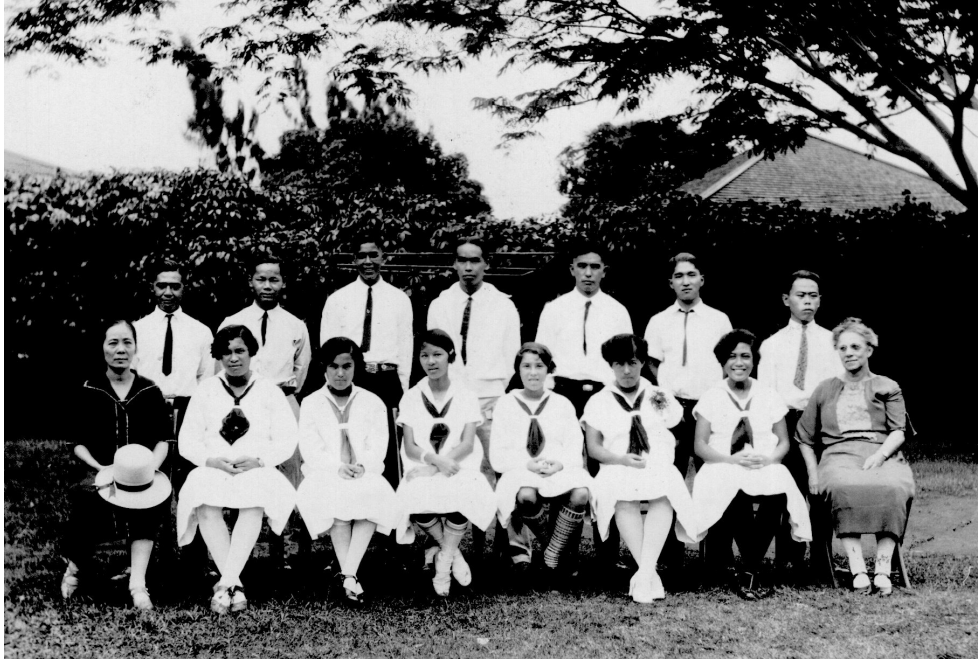
of the children have lived at St. Mary's since they were babies and know no other home," explained Miss Hilda. "When the time comes for the girls to marry, they return naturally to be married in our chapel, and when their little ones arrive the mothers proudly bring them here for baptism." The Sunday School during this time had 200 children in attendance. The Mission also sponsored a girl scout troop under Margaret Van Deerlin. There also was an active chapter of the Young People's Service League.

Death of Sara Chung

One of the tragic events of that period was the death of Sara Chung, who was struck by a car in October, 1930. She was born of Christian parents in Kohala. When Hilda Van Deerlin was in charge of the mission school at St. Paul's Church, Makapala, Sara Chung helped by teaching the young children. At that time, Hilda's father, the Rev. Erasmus J. H. Van Deerlin was in charge of the work at St. Augustine's in Kohala. He had arrived from England in 1898 to take over this work and his daughter had followed him out here. Later the two ladies left to work at the school at St. Peter's Mission in the former Pro-Cathedral building. Together they left to teach at St. Mary's Mission.



Children of the school with Miss Hilda and Miss Sarah



Young People Fellowship of St. Mary's Mission with Sarah Chung and Hilda Van Deerlin



1926 Dedication of wings of building, Bishop LaMothe and Bishop Restarick in center



she was able to play the organ at St. Mary's chapel and the piano for the kindergarten, in addition to her other duties. Of Hilda and Sara, Bishop Restarick once said, "These two women gave their valuable services for years without a murmur and cheerfully did the work that most women would decline to do. No work for God's children was too menial for them." Sara's funeral on the afternoon of October 12 at the Cathedral brought a huge crowd of people of many races. Said Bishop Restarick: "I knew Sara Chung intimately for 28 years, and I know only one word which describes her character. She was consecrated. Her life was given wholly to the service of Jesus Christ, her Lord and Master. Children loved her."

Depression years

The Great Depression had mired the nation's economy into slackened business activity and rising unemployment when S. Harrington Littel was consecrated as the third bishop of the Missionary District of Honolulu in 1930. Hawaii was affected, too, even though its economy was made up basically of sugar and pineapple exports. People simply consumed less pineapple and foodstuffs made of sugar. So there was less work for Hawaii's sugar and pineapple workers.

Despite the difficult times in Hawaii, the work of Bishop Littel showed growth. In studying the situation at St. Mary's at that time. Bishop Littel found that the staff was having problems. The major one was the lack of a resident priest to lead the worship and help with religious instruction in the mission. To alleviate this problem, the Bishop appointed the Rev. Ohmer M. Bailey as the first full time priest for the Mission in January, 1933. Father Bailey served until the summer of 1935, when he was transferred to the mainland. Bishop Littel was not able to get another full time priest for St. Mary's through the rest of his term. But the rector of St. Clement's Church, the Rev. E. Tanner Brown, and the vicar of St. Elizabeth's, Canon James F. Kieb, helped whenever they were able.

Some of the delightful times enjoyed by the children at the mission during the 1930s were the visits by Hollywood stars. H. B. War-



Hollywood Stars Visit St. Mary's Home



MARY PICKFORD AND BUDDY ROGERS
PLAY WITH TEDDY



HELEN DANCES FOR JEANETTE MACDONALD
AND GENE RAYMOND



ner visited the mission and was so impressed that he made a gift of a concrete sandbox with a roof for the playground. At another time, Jeannette MacDonald and Gene Raymond delighted the children when they called. During their honeymoon in Waikiki, Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers accepted the children's invitation to visit, resulting in a heartwarming encounter between the reigning stars of that era and the excited children.

War years and the end of orphanages

By the time that Hilda Van Deerlin retired from her duties at St. Mary's, the concept of orphanages was beginning to be economically, unsound not only in Hawaii but on the Mainland. Orphanages were being replaced by placing orphans in foster homes. With the retirement of Miss Hilda in 1943, the time was ripe for considering this modern concept in place of the program at St. Mary's. When Margaret Van Deerlin retired in January, 1947, it became apparent that the program had to be changed. By June, 1945, the number in St. Mary's home was down to 17, much too expensive to maintain a building and a full staff for so few occupants. The home was finally closed in 1949. It had served a good purpose at a time when such an institution was needed in the community, and the need was ably filled by St. Mary's mission.

Miss Hilda had served the church in Ha-



Miss Margaret's birthday, Shizu, Laurie Sasabuchi, Winifred Van Deerlin O'Connell, Miss Margaret, Rose Matsumoto, Mark Tawarahara



Sister Leah "Lei Folk"



Christmas Pageant of the school, 1929, future Senator Dan Inouye is the king in the middle



waii with skill and devotion for 43 years, 35 of them at St. Mary's. She and her sister Margaret shared a home on 10th Avenue in their later years. On Hilda's 90th birthday, she received a congratulatory letter from Sen. Daniel K. Inouye from Washington, D.C. He had recalled with happiness that he had been a day pupil at St Mary's kindergarten under her direction. Miss Hilda observed her 100th birthday on Sept 17, 1969, by attending a service of thanksgiving at St. Mary's in her honor. She had lost her sight in her later years but her mind was still sharp when she passed away on August 29, 1970. Her funeral on September 3 at St. Mary's brought out an outpouring of love from many of her former associates and students who had studied under her. During her tenure, 219 children of nine different racial backgrounds had been cared for in the home, with many of them living there from infancy into their teens.

Sister Leah was a resident of the Home and she was the only one from St. Mary's to join a religious order. She became a nun with the Sisters of the Transfiguration.



Annabelle Kamoku Yamaguchi

Annabelle Yamaguchi

Annabelle Kamoku Yamaguchi is the only resident of the St. Mary's Children's Home who is presently a member of St. Mary's Church. The following is a story about her life at the home.

Down Memory Lane by Annabelle Kamoku Yamaguchi August 1935, I was taken to St. Mary's Children Home, accompanied by a social worker. My uncle reported my mother, Caroline, was drinking heavily and unable to care for me. The Judge, then placed me in the Detention Home for 2 weeks, until a decision was made regarding placement. I remember appearing before the Judge, met a social worker who then took me to the St. Mary's Children's Home. I lived there from age seven until age 18. When I graduated from high school, I entered Kuakini Nursing School, graduating in 1949. During August, the entire home had their annual camping at Waialua Fresh Air Camp. Camping was 2-3 weeks. This was my first experience at camping. We lived in the old Army huts, which housed 8-9. An older person was in charge of each hut. Daily inspections were done by the Van Deerlins, Miss Leonard, or a designated person. Every summer, John "Yogi" Ogura had us sanding and painting the kindergarten tables and chairs in preparation for fall classes.

Shinichan Nakamura, our cook, made delicious bread and eventually I ended up making 8 loaves of bread daily. K-P duty began at 6:30 am. Laundry for the staff and young children were done by Tsume "Doninie" Matsumoto. The laundry room had 3 ironing boards, one washer with a roller, and many wash boards. Mr. Matsumoto did the yard work.

Florence Gillespie organized the "The Old Ladies Sewing Club" We were in grade school and both male and female were in this



ST. MARY'S HOME
FOR CHILDREN

1918 - 1939



VIVIAN Folk.



Margaret Van Deerlin, Deaconess Sarah Swinburne and Hilda Van Deerlin



St. Mary's Women sewing in preparation for their Bazaar. Left to right: Miss Margaret Van Deerlin, Miss Mumo Hanada, Mrs. Clarence Kageyama, Mrs. Edward Pukini, Mrs. H.C. Lau, Deaconess Swinburne, Mrs. Thomas Teruya, Mrs. Asayo Sueoka, Mrs. Helen Kam, Miss Leilani Osco, Miss Janie Okabe, Mrs. John Okabe, Miss Hilda Van Deerlin



Deaconess Sarah Frances Swinburne - 1899 - 1991

Deaconess Swinburne served at St. Marys from 1936-1963. We were without a priest from 1936 to 1945 and during that time she performed many of the clergy type duties, she filled in wherever she was needed. She kept the worship services going, assisted in the kindergarten, provided pastoral care, helped June Morioka with the GirlScout troop, and worked in the community. As one of her friends remarked, "she could do just about everything". "She was well-loved and very active and a great help to everyone" as said by another person.

"She never had an ill word about anyone." She always wore the habit of a Deaconess, and many remember her black, shoulder-

sewing class. She taught us basic sewing. Miss Gillespie took us to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and we had a meal there. For us it was our introduction to etiquette and fine dining. At the end of the meal, we were served a bowl of water with a piece of lemon. Question was raised, "What do we do with this"? Make lemonade? Answer was "no". You squeeze the lemon juice into the bowl of water and wash your fingers. We all had a good laugh. We were taught at the home: placement of cups, glasses napkins and utensils. Eating was family style. The 6 round tables sat 8-9. Setting and clearing tables was one of the chores. Whoever was assigned to table assignments, had to sweep and mop the dinning room. Grace was always said before meals and we all took turned saying grace. Elbows on the table was a "no-no."

My memories of growing up at St. Mary's during my formative years for the most part was positive.



July 1, 1945, Y.P.F. conference at Laie Von Holt Home. Left to right: (front) Bernice, Blanche, Chang, Dorothy (back) Badi-Kinnie, Barbara, Charlene Leonard and Norman Yamaguchi

Hilda Van
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Active members of St. Mary's in the "50's" Front: Dee Dee; 2nd row: Miss Margaret, Margurite Henry, Jack Chang; 3rd row: John "Yogi" Ogura, Dorothy Tom and Grace Chang



Miss Margaret



Deaconess Sarah Swinburne and mother



length veil flying in the wind as she drove along in her trusted VW with her pet dog at her side, hurrying to her appointed rounds. The Great Cross in our new Sanctuary is in her memory. She was truly "a Saint of the Church in Hawaii."

(from the Hawaii Church Chronicle, Volume 82, Number 2)

Vision of congregational life: Bp. Kennedy

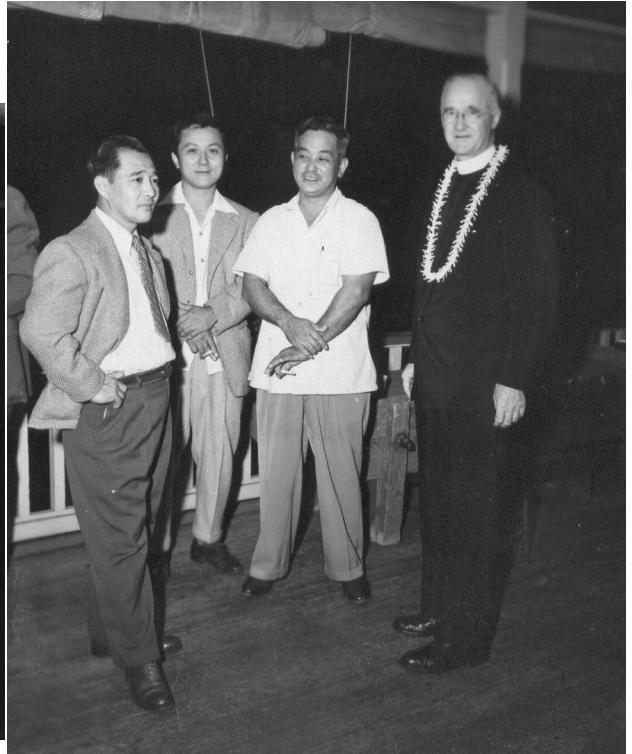
When Bishop Littel retired in 1942, the diocese wanted a strong executive type to replace him. The church had reached a stage where it needed someone with such capabilities to lead the diocese into the future, if it was to grow. The opportunity was there. The diocese had its eyes on Harry S. Kennedy, who was then a chaplain serving with a U. S. Army unit on maneuvers in Louisiana. The word was that he was not interested in the position, so the delegates to the 1943 convention had to convince him that he should accept the position. One of the delegates was the Rev. J. Thurlow Baker of St. John's Episcopal Church in Elelee, Kauai. He was vacationing with six of his young helpers at the McBryde Sugar Co. manager's cottage at the Wainiha Powerhouse when word came that he was to report immediately to Honolulu to get on a ship that was to leave in a convoy to the West Coast. It was wartime and everything was hush-hush. He told the boys before he left that he was hopeful that they could change the mind of the young chaplain and get him to become the next bishop of the Episcopal Church in Hawaii..

The joyous news soon got back to Hawaii that Chaplain Kennedy had accepted and indeed would become the church's next bishop. He arrived with his family in 1944 and began what was to become a very successful episcopate during his 25 years of service.

Bishop Kennedy, in checking the records of St. Mary's found that its list showed 125 baptized members and 96 communicants. With such a large congregation, he determined that what this mission needed was a more direct leadership than could be provided by different visiting clergy from other churches. St. Mark's Mission in Kapahulu had



Fr. Souder and Fr. Roland Ormsbee



John Ogura, Tom Teruya, Fr. Souder



Bishop Harry Kennedy and Fr. John Caton with a confirmation class



the same problem. When the Rev. Edmund L. Souder arrived here after missionary work in China, Bishop Kennedy put him in charge of both St. Mary's and St. Mark's in January, 1945. St. Mary's provided the living quarters.

The following year, the Bishop's Committee of St. Mark's asked Bishop Kennedy for the full-time services of Father Souder, which was approved. The Bishop filled the St. Mary's slot by appointing the Rev. Roland C. Ormsbee. He had come recently to Hawaii after his retirement on the Mainland to be with his daughter, and had offered his services as long as his health permitted. He was able to serve St. Mary's for two years. In 1948, the Rev. Richard Corry was appointed full time vicar, but he was forced to return to the Mainland the following year due to family reasons. Father Corry worked well with the young people of St. Mary's and had been successful in raising funds to build a vicarage on the premises. It was ready for occupancy just when he was forced to depart.

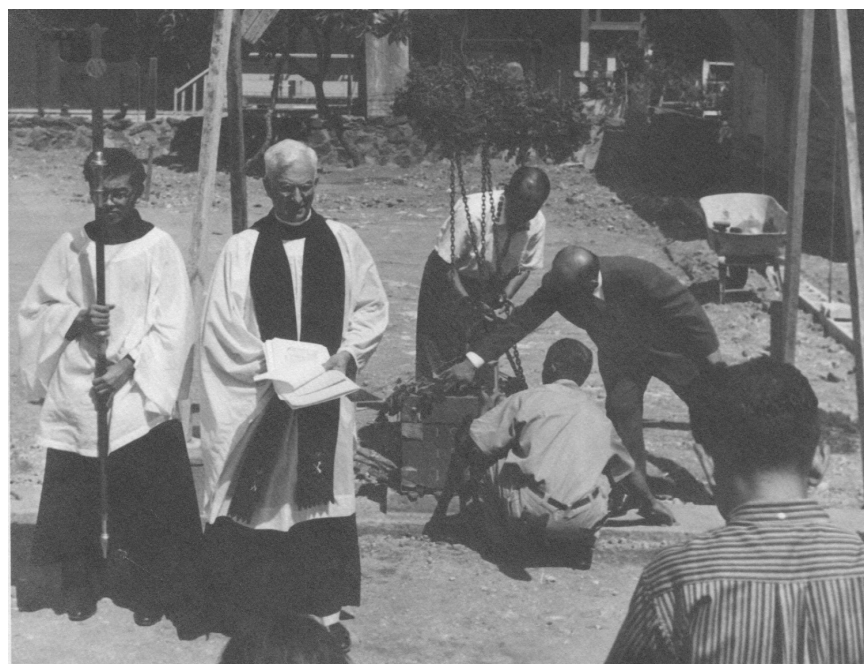
Congregational life: The Rev. Caton

The Bishop transferred the Rev. John R. Caton from Kauai to St. Mary's in 1950. His tenure was longer than the priests that preceded him and he was able to accomplish more at the mission. In addition to his duties as vicar, he was appointed chaplain of Episcopal students at the University of Hawaii. The orphanage building was transformed into a student hostel and a meeting place for the Canterbury Club. This arrangement ended in 1953 when the diocese constructed a building next to the University campus for the Canterbury Club and assigned the assistant priest at St. Clement's extra duties as student chaplain.

This made it possible for Father Caton to concentrate his efforts in building up the mission. An indication of his success is seen in comparing parochial records of 1954 with that of 1944. The number of baptized members more than doubled from 125 to 288 in that 10-year period, and the number of communicants doubled from 96 to 192. The financial status of the mission also showed substantial gains. One of the big events during his tenure was the dedication on April 15, 1954 (Maundy Thursday) of the stained glass window above the chapel altar in memory of David Kam, who had been a leader in the life of the mission. The glass was created in the studios of Peter Clysen in Tilburg, Holland.



Razing of St. Mary's Home



The Rev. Paul Savanack dedication service for the complete renovation and construction of St. Mary's property, June 15, 1958



1958: Laying the cornerstone

In 1956, Bishop Kennedy transferred Father Caton to Taiwan, which was under the Bishop's jurisdiction at that time. For a while, St. Mary's had to depend on temporary supply priests. In 1957, the Rev. Richard A. Kirchhoffer, Jr., was vicar briefly before being reassigned to St. Timothy's Church in PearlrIDGE. In 1958, the Rev. William D. Pollock from Colorado was appointed vicar, but within a few months he was reassigned to the Cathedral for a few months before returning to the Mainland.

The supply priest who accomplished the most during this unsettling period was the Rev. Paul Savanack, administrative assistant in the Bishop's office. This was a time of renovation and construction at St. Mary's. The plan was to sell a parcel of land and use the proceeds from the sale to build a new parish hall. The parcel sold is the site of today's Manchester Building. The board of directors of the Diocese authorized the sale of the land to get the project rolling.

The old termite-riddled Children's Home and Restarick Hall were razed. The chapel was moved to the site of the former home. Its chancel was extended, altar renovated, and windows replaced with colored louvers. The chapel and the vicarage were painted. The new parish hall was built in the open space to the west where once stood the chapel. A covered walkway connected the chapel and

parish hall. Two metal crosses removed from Davies Hall, which was also being renovated at that time, were given to St. Mary's to be placed on the roof of the parish hall.

The resetting of the cornerstones for the church and the parish hall took place on June 15, 1958, a Sunday.

The opening service in the church was similar to the one on December 10, 1911 when the cornerstone was laid for the Mission House. The program used the same hymns and lessons and the address given by Mrs. Louise Folsom in 1911 on the first 10 years of the mission was read. The service that continued outside was to reset the cornerstone in the back wall of the church. Canon Savanack in his prayer of blessing struck the cornerstone with the silver trowel that had been given to the church long ago by Queen Liliuokalani.

The old cornerstone to which the date 1958 had been inscribed below the 1902 and 1911 already there, had been salvaged from the Children's Home. The wooden box was replaced by one of copper and current tokens were added to the contents before the cornerstone was set into the side wall of the new parish hall. The dedication of the parish hall, however, was not until September 3, 1958, with Bishop Kennedy officiating.



Fr. Morimasa Kaneshiro, Myrtle and Charles



The dedication of the new parish hall