

Religious Ed News

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St. Ann's Religious Education Programs

46-125 Haiku Road

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Mission Statement

The purpose of St. Ann's Model Schools is to continue the Parish's educational ministry by teaching our children to be a community of Catholics responsibly committed in Word and Action to the proclamation and celebration of the Gospel.



RELIGIOUS ED NEWS

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Robert Noguchi & Renee Fung, Editors



They decided to say YES! Pictured above are St. Ann's RE & YM Program's newest young adult Catechists and their adult Leaders. After attending a weekend-long training retreat, these teens have committed themselves to be Youth Leaders and Classroom Aides for our 2011-2012 Year. Here they are shown after being commissioned as Youth Leaders at the July 25th 11:30am Mass (Teens L-R: Ryan Chun, Micah Halemano, Tyler Zeilenga, Nicole Condon, Cierra Nascimento & Richard Hernandez. Adults L-R: Lylia Ishihara, Robert Noguchi, Malu Kamanu, Carla Simao & Kuulei Halemano).

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions...

By Robert Noguchi, Principal of Religious Education

Each day we are faced with a multitude of choices and decisions: Should I hit the snooze button for the third time? What do I wear today? Should I eat a Pop Tart or wheat toast? Coffee or orange juice? Do I have time for a little morning cardio? So many decisions, and that's only in the first ten minutes of the day!

Throughout our day we are bombarded by more and more choices and decisions to make, some trivial and some quite important, with serious consequences. The modern media does not make things any easier, presenting us with an ever widening variety of choices in the form of entertainment and advertising, often taking a serious toll on our time and pocketbook.

With so many options out there and decisions to make each day, how does a Christian navigate through such a troubled sea of choices? Well, if we take our lead from the One who calmed the turbulent sea, I think we would find that the waters of life, although stormy and rough at times, are very much passable. Jesus assures us time and time again throughout the Gospels, "Be not afraid!" If we only place our trust and focus on him, we too may find ourselves walking peacefully across stormy seas. *(continued on page 2)*

In the Spirit...

Decisions... continued from p.1

This year's theme song for RE/YM is "I Will Choose Christ". The focus is choosing Christ-like behaviors, values and principles that lead us to a deeper relationship with our Lord. Amidst all the choices we are confronted with every day, the most important decision we can make is to *choose Christ*. With that as our first and foremost decision, the rest of life's options take on a new and proper perspective. Allowing Jesus to be at the helm will always make for a more peaceful and joyous voyage.

Parents, I thank you for your *decision* to enroll your child in the St. Ann's RE/YM program this year. Together, let us continue to pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to choose Christ in our lives, and to nurture that faith in the lives of our children. May you and your family have a blessed and joyous new school year!

*Jesus, I will choose you, I will choose love,
I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life,
I give my all to you!*



Confirmation Retreat October 7th-9th

Within the Diocese of Honolulu, all Confirmation candidates are required to participate in a retreat within their two-year Confirmation process. This year, the Basic Christian Community (BCC) will host our Confirmation Retreat on the weekend of **October 7th - 9th** at St. Stephen's Diocesan Center. Candidates will have the opportunity to grow in community with one another and to examine themselves in the context of their faith. The retreat is designed to lead them into a deeper understanding and commitment to their Catholic Faith. Permission forms and retreat information were included in the Confirmation I Parent Orientation Packet distributed on September 11th. We are also seeking chaperones for the retreat. Please call the Religious Education Office for more information.

It's Not Too Late!

Even though Religious Ed & Youth Ministry classes have started, registrations are still being taken for our 2011-2012 year. Parents may visit the RE Office Monday thru Thursday from 7:30am-4pm or Sundays from 8am-2pm to register their keiki for our programs. Visit our website at www.saintannshawaii.org for online registration and information about our RE & YM Programs. You may reach our office at 247-3092, ext. 225



It's Elementary!

By Sylvia Makainai, RE Elementary Coordinator

*Grant, O Lord, to all of our students,
to love and know YOU!*

*To praise that which pleases You most;
To esteem that which is most precious to You;
To dislike whatsoever is evil in your eyes. Amen.*

Thank you, parents, for registering your children in religious education and delivering them on time for class each Sunday. Here's a glimpse of the exciting happenings in our RE elementary program:

In Pre-K they prayed a circle prayer at the playground with Mrs. Jill Chang, Mrs. Carmen Mohika and Aide Nikki Condon. As of this writing, Mrs. Chang & Mrs. Mohika will be taking a sabbatical from teaching. Our new teachers in Pre-K will be Mrs. Valentine Day Iwamasa and Mrs. Jennifer Kort. Ms. Nikki Condon will continue as the aide in the classroom, Mahalo to all for facilitating this change.

In the Kindergarten class, Mrs. Wendy Calizar and Ms. Terry Lau had the little ones draw a picture of themselves helping one another. Mrs. Calizar then discussed with students the importance and value of cooperation.

Mrs. Kathy Nirei & her daughters Kelsey and Elisa take care of our first graders. Last week the keiki were asked to look for some of the creatures that God has made. They later colored a picture of one of these creatures.

Our second grade class is large and Mrs. Kris Campbell designs her lesson plans utilizing her team (Mrs. Jamie Tanoura, Mrs. Therese Otenbriet & Mrs. Leslie Tolentino). Their students recently discovered the special box which contained a gift from God (continued on page 4)

Relationships, Reverence, Respect!

By Malu Kamanu, Youth Ministry Coordinator

On Saturday, August 20th, Windward Vicariate youth gathered at St. George to celebrate our community and also to learn about Theology of the Body, and how it pertains to their lives as teenagers. Meanwhile, that week, millions of youth were gathered in Spain celebrating World Youth Day. At our local event, Guest speaker, Marcos Brackins, inspired the youth with not only Church teachings, but also with his personal stories. Following the presentation, the teens had a chance to simply "hang out" and enjoy their time with one another, primarily at Sherwood beach. Mass with presider, Rev. Gary Secor, concluded our time together. Fr. Gary meshed the theme of relationships, respect, and reverence into his homily, making it very relevant to the youth. A big mahalo goes out to the Helo Ohana for helping lifeguard that day and to the St. Ann's YM staff and students who were in attendance that day!



St. Ann's YM teens joined other youth from the windward parishes such as St. Roch's, Kahaku all the way to St. George, Waimanalo for the Windward Vicariate Youth Day. Pictured above are the teens as they gathered for the day's Opening Ceremony and activities. The day included guest speakers, fun & fellowship and a cool T-shirt commemorating the special day!

UPCOMING YM ACTIVITIES

- **Today, September 25th - Ice Palace Social**
YM Students will head off after class to Ice Palace for fun, games & fellowship from 11:30am to 2:45pm. Transportation is provided.
- **October 29th - American Cancer Society's 3rd Annual Making Strides Walk at Ford Island**
October Service Activity: Join us as we once again participate in the "Making Strides Walk" at Ford Island for a 5 mile walk to help raise awareness and fight Breast Cancer. We will depart at 7am and return at Noon. A minimum donation to the ACS of \$5 donation is required to participate. Event T-Shirts may be purchased for \$10.
- **November 12th - Paepae O Heeia Project**
Volunteers will remove invasive limu from Heeia Fishpond.
- **December 3rd - Kaneohe Christmas Parade & St. Ann's Annual Christmas Festival**
Teens can choose to be a part of our YM Marching Unit in the Annual Parade or sign up to work a shift at our Christmas Festival YM "Keikiland".

Fundraiser Begins Oct. 2nd!

Each school year, we reach out to our RE/YM families to ask their kokua in supporting our RE & YM Programs. For the 2011-2012 year, each child enrolled in our program is asked to sell 8 **Zippy's Benefit Fundraiser** tickets. The tickets are sold for \$8 and are good for a variety of Zippy's favorites such as Chili, Portuguese Bean Soup, Spaghetti Meat Sauce and Napoleon's Bakery frozen cookie dough (chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin & peanut butter). A \$25 donation per child can be made in lieu of participating in the fundraiser.

For those signed up to participate, the **tickets will be distributed on Sunday, October 2nd in the RE/YM classes.** All participating students (selling tickets or monetary donation) will be eligible to win prizes in our fundraiser incentive program (to be announced). If you would like to sign up to sell Zippy's Benefit Tickets, give us a call at 247-3092, ext. 225 to receive your pack.

Thank you to the many parents who have already contributed to our fundraiser. To date, we have raised \$2,008. Your generosity and kokua is such a blessing to our Parish and RE & YM Programs! God Bless!

RE & YM's Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 25th – Fellowship Sunday

- Confirmation II Sponsor Session, 10am, Library
- Baptism Mass, 5pm
- YM Ice Palace Social, 11:30am–2:45pm



October ~ The Month of the Rosary

Sunday, October 2nd

- Baptism Prep Session I, 10am, Library
- YM Safe Environment Presentation, 10:00am, Students are to report directly to the Church
- RE Safe Environment, Pre-K, R.C.I.C. I, Gr. 3
- RE/YM Zippy's Benefit Fundraiser Begins

Friday, October 7th

- Eucharistic Adoration, 7am to 7pm
- St. Ann's/BCC Confirmation Retreat begins

Sunday, October 9th

- Baptism Prep Session II, 10am, Church
- RE Safe Environment, Kindergarten

Thursday, October 13th

- Parenting Safe Environment Workshop, 7pm, Church (parents only)

Sunday, October 16th

- RE/YM Rosary Prayer Service, 10:15am, Church
- RE/YM Catechist Meeting, 11:30am, P/C

Saturday, October 22nd

- SCH/ELC/RE & YM Parent Work Day

Saturday, October 23rd

- 1st Reconciliation Parent Session, 10am, Church
- RE Safe Environment: Grades 1, 4, R.C.I.C. II
- Baptism Mass, 11:30am

Saturday, October 29th

- YM Service Activity: American Cancer Society's Making Strides Walk, 7am – Noon.

Sunday, October 30th ~ Fellowship Sunday

- RE/YM Open House, 10am
- Daughters of St. Paul Book Sale
- Fundraiser Ends – all monies due

For any questions on the events listed, please call us at 247-3092, ext. 225!

"I Belong Poem"

By Haylee Bennett, YM 8th Grade Student

I belong to the Church
I am one of the branches of the vine
I am a great listener
And part of God's Church family and
praying to be a follower of Jesus.

I am the body
I sing in Church and volunteer
for community service
I am an altar server and also am involved
in many extra curricular activities

I am one of the sheep
I am a great helper to people
I also am patient for others
and I am truly a follower of God.

It's Elementary!

Mrs. Dree-Ann Duarte has two young men who aide her in the third grade classroom, Tony Duarte-Smith and Kalani Souza. They prepared a mingle to help the children get to know each other.

R.C.I.C. I (Rite of Christian Initiation) is a class for students preparing for baptism. Ms. Kaylen Halemano began class with teaching her children the sign of the cross.

Mrs. Carol Nascimento, teaching in our fourth grade, with the aid of Mrs. Leslie Gladu, did a question ball-toss to build community with their students.

Mrs. Linn Bautista, who taught our R.C.I.C. I children last year, is teaching the keiki in R.C.I.C. II this year. She is joined by new catechist Mrs. Diana Simkus. Together they are encouraging the students to maintain a spirit journal alongside their class lessons.

Fifth grade is fun and being taught by Titi and Bill Ricafort and aided by Judy Ma. Last week they studied in groups and shared bible stories.

Our sixth graders played a "two corner" game which helped our teacher, Mrs. Lila Marantz, and her aide Ms. Cierra Nascimento discover who went to Mass and who was still planning to attend the later Mass.

Oftentimes, one of our teachers may need to travel and when this occurs we call in our special teaching substitute, June Hashimoto. June has taught 5th & 6th graders in our program a few years ago. Actually, she has taught just about every grade we have, since she has so graciously volunteered to sub teach "whenever we need".

MUCH MAHALO to all of our fine teachers, aides, substitutes and office helpers. Tune in to the next newsletter for an update on our office helpers!