



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Meet Parishioners Joe and Mary Reynolds *Living Their Stewardship in Action at St. Michael*

For anyone who thinks it might be too late to “get in the game” and start living a more active faith life, parishioners Joe and Mary Reynolds are certainly proving otherwise! Mary was born and raised in a Catholic family in the Diocese of Syracuse, NY. Attending Mass has always been important to Mary, but she credits her husband’s 2004 conversion with getting the couple more engaged in church life.

“Until Joe converted, I used to go to Mass every week and sit in the back row,” Mary says. “That was it until 2004. When my husband became a convert, he decided he wasn’t going to sit in the back. So we became lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Joe is a sacristan at the Thursday Mass and I am a reader there, and I go to adoration. We’ve also helped with fundraisers. It’s all his fault I got involved in so much! I’m glad he got me into it.”



As Mary and Joe Reynolds enjoy retirement in Kona, they are happy to put their faith in action through service at St. Michael.

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Meet Parishioners Joe and Mary Reynolds

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Joe first began learning more about the Catholic Church when his son married a Catholic and signed up for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process. Mary offered to attend the classes with him as a sign of support, so Joe decided to go as well. As the classes went on, Joe found himself more and more interested in the Church.

By the end of the RCIA process, Joe had decided to become Catholic himself.

"I was on the county council at the time and had to go to weekly meetings in Hilo," says Joe. "When the time came to decide whether to convert or not, I was driving to Hilo and thinking about it the whole time. Finally, I thought, 'Why not? I could use all the help I can get!' I was in my 70s at the time, and today I'm 90."

In the 16 years since he joined the Church, Joe feels his life has been deeply enriched.

"Life became more purposeful," he says. "I think I had a purpose that I hadn't had before, and it made me think about things I hadn't thought much about for years. I like the opportunity to talk closely with Fr. Lio when I'm the sacristan at the noon Mass on Thursday. Being a convert, I have a lot of questions. People that were born Catholic sometimes take things for granted, but I don't."

Like Joe, Mary is thankful for the additional blessings that have come with a more active faith life.

She enjoys serving St. Michael the Archangel in various ways, with a special appreciation for the opportunity to offer fellow parishioners the Body and Blood of Christ as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

As their 48th wedding anniversary approaches, Joe and Mary recognize that living their faith together as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ has strengthened the bond between them even further.

"I think it's made a difference in our marriage," Mary says. "I appreciate the fact that we go to church together and participate."

As two individuals with tremendous hearts for service — the couple first met in the Los Angeles school system, where Mary was teaching students with severe disabilities and Joe was retraining amputees to drive — helping others has always been a part of their life together.

Now, as Joe and Mary enjoy their retirement in Kona, they are happy to continue doing what they can to serve right here in our parish.

"I don't enjoy just sitting there — I want to be in on the action," Joe says. "That is just my nature, and now Mary has become the same way. I was an athlete in elementary, high school, and college and then joined the Marine Corps. It was the same when I joined the Church — I don't join the team to sit on the bench, I get in the game!"

"I don't enjoy just sitting there — I want to be in on the action. That is just my nature, and now Mary has become the same way. I was an athlete in elementary, high school, and college and then joined the Marine Corps. It was the same when I joined the Church — I don't join the team to sit on the bench, I get in the game!" — JOE REYNOLDS



A Letter From Our Pastor

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As this unprecedented crisis for our Church, nation, and world continues to unfold, we are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. As we begin a return to our “new normal,” we have so much for which to be grateful.

I have witnessed so many of you continuing to actively live out stewardship during these past few months while our parish family has been apart, and that is truly a blessing. But with the uncertainty of what this “new normal” will be like in the days, weeks, and months ahead, I ask you all to again consider how you are living out your call to stewardship.

Regardless of whether or not we can physically gather in our church or come together for ministry activities and events, our faith always lives on.

Remember that stewardship is a way of life, meaning that we are called to live as intentional disciples of Christ through the practice of stewardship in all circumstances.

Have you been giving God your Time? I encourage you to pray every day. Use this time as an opportunity to develop or strengthen your prayer life.

How can you serve the Lord right now with your Talents? Serve your family and friends in the ways that



you can. Use your talents wisely to grow in relationship with others near or far.

Finally, is God still a priority in your Treasure? Despite the hardships, are you still keeping God at the heart of all your financial decisions. I encourage you to give God a portion of your treasure out of gratitude, no matter how big or small.

Thank you for your continued support by way of prayers, service, and generous financial giving during these challenging times. I have been overwhelmed with a new

sense of gratitude and dependence on our Lord during this crisis, and continue praying for each of you. I look forward to the day our parish and our Church is bustling with life again, and I pray that day is coming soon.

Let us live with the joy of the Resurrection each day of our lives!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Lio Faletoi



Aloha 'O

"You have been told...what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God." (MICAH 6:8)

Our parish 'ohana recently said goodbye to our beloved friend Cynthia Taylor, who passed away in February. With her spirit of service, Cynthia dedicated her life to the well-being of others. Most who knew Cynthia would recall how she worked tirelessly to champion the poor and vulnerable while lifting up every person around her.

"She was very down-to-earth, very practical, and very authentic," says deacon candidate Sándor Hernández Morales. "She was a woman of deep prayer. When you got to talking with her, you realized how deep her spirituality was, and it was a spirituality of action, of helping others. She was just a great person. I miss her dearly — I think we all do."

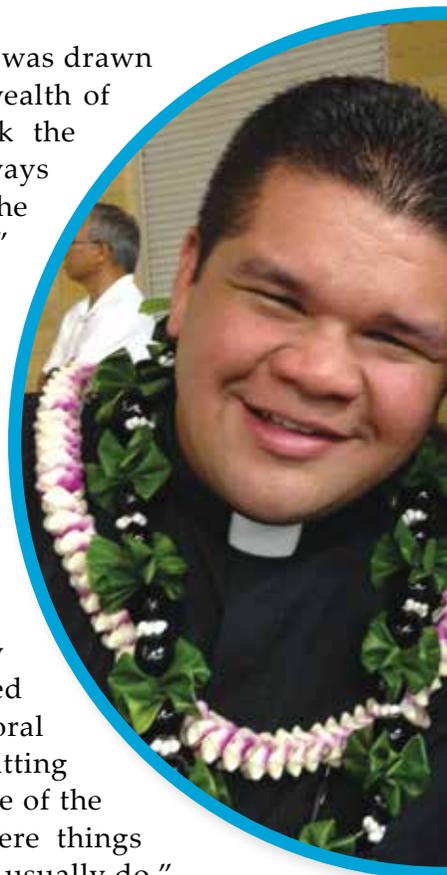
Cynthia was born on Feb. 25, 1940, and died on her 80th birthday. The oldest of three children, she was a graduate of Neumann University and held a master's degree in Clinical and Surgical Nursing from the University of Maryland. She was a Franciscan nun for 17 years, but decided to leave the order after she completed her master's, believing that she could better serve others as a layperson. After serving in several positions as a nurse at various hospitals, and co-authoring several medical books, she moved to Hawai'i in 2003 with her husband, Gil, to become the parish nurse at St. Michael.

"That was when I first met Cynthia," says parish Administrative Assistant Susan Bender. "One of the first things I noticed about her was that she always remembered everyone's name. She was dyslexic, so while she may have gotten letters or numbers mixed up, she was so good at remembering things

about families. Everyone was drawn to her. She was such a wealth of information, and I think the Franciscan in her was always looking to see how she could help those in need."

"Cynthia was the kind of person that gave herself fully — her life at St. Michael was much bigger than just St. Michael," Sándor adds. "She was committed to helping people, and was all about living her faith in service. She was involved in so many things, and was so skilled at what she did. 'Pastoral Associate' was a very fitting title for her, because some of the things she did really were things that a parish vicar would usually do."

Cynthia was passionate about social justice and serving others in need, and her involvement in the parish and local community reflected that. Her many roles included serving in the parish Funeral Ministry, the Baptism Ministry, the Religious Education program, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children, Confirmation for adults, the Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry, the Mālama Na Keiki backpack program, the Justice for All Ministry, the board of the diocesan



Cynthia Taylor (pictured with Resinto) is fondly remembered as a thoughtful friend who



CYNTHIA TAYLOR

Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Community Alliance Partners program for the homeless, the Parish Pastoral Council, and as the advocate for annulments for the West Hawai'i Vicariate. She was an Extraordinary Minister, both at Mass and for the homebound, she served as a lector, and also was the liaison for when someone in hospice or the hospital needed a priest.

"She was very good at whatever she undertook," Susan says. "She didn't take things lightly if she was tasked with something — she always did it as best as she could."

The empathy she showed for those in need extended to those in her personal life, as well. Cynthia is fondly remembered as a kind and thoughtful friend who always put others first.

"She always had a smile to share," Sándor says. "In the last year or so of her life, she was on a portable oxygen machine, but she never allowed it to stop her from doing whatever needed to be done. She always made sure that she was there, and took care of people, and she never complained. I think that speaks a lot to the type of person she was."

"She was good at being a friend," Susan says. "She was so busy, but she always took the time to have lunch with me. She was always giving me

beautiful pieces of clothing that no longer fit her, and I was fortunate to be able to fit into them. When someone would ask me where I'd gotten my new blouse, my answer was always, 'Chez Taylor!' Also, when my daughter graduated from high school and went to nursing school, Cynthia gifted her two of the nursing books that she had co-authored. Those books are so expensive, and it was really meaningful to us that she would do that.

"She had so much knowledge in her, and when she was talking to you, she was always present," she adds. "She listened and she waited until you had said everything you wanted to say, and then she would think about her answer. It was just such a blessing to be there talking to her."

Cynthia was involved in so many ministries and community initiatives that are now in need of volunteers to honor her memory by continuing her hard work. For more information on how to help out, please contact the parish office at 808-326-7771.

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— SÁNDOR HERNÁNDEZ
MORALES



Photographed with Fr. EJ remembered as a kind and always put others first.

STEWARDSHIP AND FAITH LIVING OUR DISCIPLESHIP DURING TOUGH TIMES

These are uncertain and worrisome times. At press time of this newsletter, we are still unable to physically come together for Eucharist and the sacraments, and we're left wondering, "How can we be a church when we still can't gather at our churches to receive Holy Communion?"

During this and any crisis, one thing that remains constant in our lives is the presence of the Catholic Church to offer us the Lord's unwavering support. Throughout the Church's history, the domestic church we live out in our homes has sustained our Catholic faith during countless seasons of persecutions and hardships; this COVID-19 crisis is no different.

Now, more than ever, we must remember that our parish truly is an `ohana. The physical building in which we worship and pray is not the Church. *We* are the Church.

During a crisis, prayer is more important than ever. Though we may be isolated, through prayer, we can embrace the unity of faith we all share as Catholics.

As faithful stewards, we must remember everything we have is a gift from God, and in turn, we must be grateful and offer all that we are back to Him. We may be physically distanced from others, but we still have an opportunity to spiritually unite each day. A simple prayer such as the Morning Offering — a prayer said by an individual at the start of the day in order to consecrate oneself to Christ — is a great way to unite daily with Catholics around the world and claim our homes and our daily living for Christ. What's more, as you devote more time to personal and family prayer, remember to lift up in prayer all of our civil and religious leaders during this time, as well as our parishioners and community members.

There are other ways through which we can stay connected as a parish `ohana. Call kūpuna or call a friend from our parish. Ask how they're doing, how they are living their faith during this time, and how they might need help. You can also keep in touch with each other and our pastor, parish leaders, and staff by joining our "St. Michael's Info Coconut Wireless" Flocknote message service, just text the word **SMACCKK** to phone number **84576**, or go to our media platforms, including our parish website at **www.KonaCatholicChurch.net**.

Stewardship, at its roots, also teaches that we are not supposed to give God our leftovers. We should instead strive to return to God a portion of our first fruits — giving to God first and then using the rest for our other needs. This idea can be difficult for many, especially during a crisis. Taking the steps toward good stewardship in every aspect of our lives boils down to trust and believing that God, who takes care of all His creation, will take care of us.

Prayerfully consider continuing to give a portion of your treasure back to God and our parish by making your regular gift to the offertory (if you are able to do so) so our parish can meet our financial obligations. You can visit our parish website and click on "Online Giving," or send a check to our mailing address at:

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There will come a day, soon, when we will physically gather to worship together again. As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, pray without ceasing and remember we are a people of hope! Akua will never abandon us!

MORNING OFFERING

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month.

Amen.





FEEDING THE HUNGRY THROUGH

The Friendly Place



We've all heard the story of the Good Samaritan — so how are we stepping up to *kōkua* in our day-to-day lives? Our parish ministries give us many opportunities to help those in need. One way is by feeding the hungry by providing meals for The Friendly Place, as part of an initiative by The Food Basket — Hawai'i Island's food bank.

"The parish has been doing this for 50 or 60 years," says parishioner Claire Inman, who has been involved for the past 12 years. "It started off up in the hills of Hōlualoa when parishioners would take pots of hot rice to the people working in the coffee fields. We do it every Tuesday, and we have another group from our Filipino Club that does it on Fridays."

A group of volunteers from St. Michael prepares, transports, and serves a hot meal at The Friendly Place each week. The ministry is split into teams of three to five people who rotate each week.

"We have a budget from the parish to buy the food," Claire says. "We talk over the menu, and we

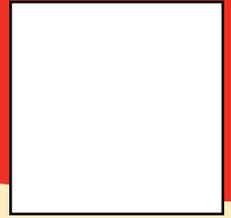
have some great variety. We've got some great Italian food, some great Filipino cooks, and pretty much any kind of food you can imagine. The parishioners cook the food in the morning, and it has protein, some kind of starch, and vegetables."

And as Claire notes, farmers generously bring bananas and other fresh fruit, which helps to provide a well-balanced meal.

Volunteers arrive at The Friendly Place at around 11 a.m. on their assigned day to set up and then serve the guests. With the recent COVID-19 outbreak, the meals have been take-out only — however, these meals are usually a wonderful opportunity for guests to create community.

"It's a social hour for them, and St. Michael also provides a lending library for them," Claire says. "They have shelves there for us and I maintain them. I get book donations and refresh the library as needed. We also talk with them, and there are many opportunities for us to evangelize them as well."

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Feeding the Hungry through The Friendly Place

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Over her years with the ministry, Claire has grown in faith through her service and has been encouraged by the feedback she has received.

"I've grown in great abundance just by seeing the smiles on their faces," Claire says. "In addition to homeless people, we also have people who have jobs but just don't have the money to buy food after they pay for their rent and their cars. This is their respite in the middle

of the day so they can have a hot lunch. Everyone is very appreciative, and you can see that they don't often eat home-cooked food like that.

"All our volunteers feel God's blessing," she adds. "This is something God asks of us, and we always let people know that even though we may have cooked the food, we were handpicked by God to make these lunches for people. It's the Christian thing to do."

*New volunteers are always welcome to join in to help with cooking or serving meals.
For more information, or to get involved, please contact Claire Inman at 808-756-5352.*

Mass Schedule

We are making preparations for COVID-19 safety at St. Michael so we can resume physically gathering for Eucharist as soon as Civil Authorities allow. Bishop Larry and Fr. Lio have communicated our plans to Civil Authorities so we are ready to start ASAP.

Look for weekly updates on our Flocknote info service (See page 6 for info on how to sign up for Flocknote).