



# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## BEACH EVANGELIZATION MINISTRY

### *Sharing the Message of Hope*

Catholics are always called to share the joy and truth of our faith with those around us. Now that two years of COVID restrictions are finally easing up, parishioner Dr. Scott French is hoping to bring the Good News to both Catholics and non-Catholics alike through the Beach Evangelization Ministry.

"Before COVID, I approached Fr. Lio with the idea to combine that with a booth for evangelization, where we could have refreshments and tell people about the truths of the Catholic Church," Dr. French says. "This is a great opportunity to evangelize both Catholics and non-Catholics. What we just went through with COVID was a fear of death, and yet we know the truth — that there really is a bodily resurrection, that we have an eternal soul, and that we're destined to live in our real home in heaven. Our secular culture is trying to convince us that the material

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Dr. Scott French

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## **Beach Evangelization Ministry** *continued from front cover*

world is all there is. Seventy-five percent of Catholics currently don't believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. We really have lost that understanding that there is real scientific evidence of things like the Shroud of Turin and Eucharistic miracles. So, to rebuild the Catholic Church is where we need to go."

As an ER doctor, Dr. French has seen firsthand the fear of death present in our society, as well as the isolation we have all experienced throughout the pandemic. He also gives talks on the scientific evidence seen in the Shroud of Turin and the Eucharistic miracles of the 21st century. He hopes that we can come together once again as social creatures to trust in the certainty that God is in charge and that our true home is in heaven.

"The secular world claims that science has disproven the existence of God, but the fact is that science affirms the opposite," Dr. French says. "The evidence is overwhelming that there is a Creator God and that we have souls. For example, the image on the Shroud of Turin is an image that would require six to eight watts of pure energy to recreate. 'I am the Light of the world' — well, He really is!

"In the 21st-century Eucharistic miracles, the wine turned into blood and the host turned into tissue," he adds. "The findings from the tissue analysis have shown that the flesh is heart tissue and has signs of stress, and that white blood cells were present that can only exist outside the body for 30 minutes.

"The blood was found to be type AB blood, which is the rarest type but is found in 12 percent of Jewish people. All these things are God trying to show us that He is in charge of science and that He created the universe and created those natural laws. The Big Bang theory was formulated by a Catholic priest who worked with Albert Einstein! Most physicists today are believers. The more scientific evidence there is, the less others can deny it."

Dr. French also hopes that this ministry will engage our youth, who are the future of the Church.

"This is a way for our youth to both understand and be able to defend and spread the Good News like we did in the first couple of centuries," he says. "People in those times would sing on their way to martyrdom because they knew that eternal life was more than the material world. We are the hope, and that is how we started, and we need to re-evangelize the world.

"I'd like to have college students come, and adults, and high school kids, and be able to talk about their faith," he adds. "We understand that faith and science are compatible, and that science will point to faith. If God created the universe, then He also created science! Finally, when you see hatred, division, despair, and an increase in death, who do you think is behind that? We want to combat that by saying 'peace be with you,' and sharing a message of hope and truth that there is life beyond the material world."

***"We understand that faith and science are compatible, and that science will point to faith. If God created the universe, then He also created science!" — DR. SCOTT FRENCH***

*For more information about this ministry,  
please contact Dr. Scott French at 808-443-8743 or [sfrench@healthylifejourney.com](mailto:sfrench@healthylifejourney.com).*



# A LOOK BACK AT Confirmation and First Communion

*With the Diocese of Honolulu instituting the Restored Order of the Sacraments, our parish youth received their First Communion and Confirmation together, with Bishop Larry presiding. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to all who received these sacraments.*



## Debbie and Ed Cunningham Rest

This past spring, parishioners Debbie and Ed Cunningham generously gave of their time and talent to restore and paint the church's Stations of the Cross. The Cunninghams initially lived in Kona from August 1998 to December 2001 with their two daughters — who were altar servers at St. Michael — and their son. Currently, they are seasonal parishioners, part of our hānai `ohana, who come to enjoy the warm Hawai`i weather in the winter and wanted to find a way to give back to the parish they call home.

"When I would be in the church, it bothered me how dark the Stations were and how I could hardly make out what each one was," Debbie says. "Some-time last year as I was sitting there, I heard in my head, 'Maybe you can do something about it,' and I don't think that was me talking to myself. Last spring, I asked Fr. Lio if he would like help with making the Stations more visible. Coming to St. Michael Church is

like coming home. It is our home parish, so that is why it is so easy for us to help where we can."

Debbie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with a certification to teach from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania.

"Over the years I have painted several portraits and landscapes for family and clients, but most of my energy went into my marriage and raising my family," she says. "Now there is more time for special projects as the kids are all grown. Ed has all sorts of experience and is very knowledgeable about wood, so he was the grace I needed when the damaged and worn Stations made it to our condo."

St. Michael's Via Crucis, or Stations of the Cross, has a very unique mo`olelo. Originally made in Europe in the 1800s, each carving weighs 70 pounds. They come from a church in Iraq that succumbed to the effects of the war there. Eventually, they made their way to an auction house in France where they were purchased, all 14 panels were shipped to Hawai`i, and donated to Fr. Stephen Macedo by a parishioner for use at his then parish. As God's providence would have it, they did not fit in that church and turned out to be a perfect fit at the new St. Michael's building. So, Fr. Stephen gave them to our parish.

The Stations were previously dark wood panels, and the glare from the windows during the day made it difficult to see what was carved onto them. After Debbie and Ed returned home to Utah from their visit, they brainstormed several ideas for how to restore and paint the Stations. After review, Fr. Lio chose the option to keep the natural wood of the panels and have the figures painted with color and gold. The Stations were each delivered to the Cunninghams, starting with the 10<sup>th</sup> Station during the first week of February.

There was much cleaning and refinishing work that needed to occur before painting could begin. "Initially, it took me four hours to clean one, but then Ed





## Restore the Via Crucis at St. Michael

### *Grateful to Jesus and His Love for Us*

took charge of that and got it down to three hours with his methods of vacuuming, scrubbing, and wiping so as not to saturate the wood with water,” Debbie says. “On a lot of them, the wood panels behind the carved reliefs needed the old, partially worn-away varnish to be removed. We used painters’ tape to do this since the varnish was so old and fragile.

“Many of the Stations needed their wood to be stained because of their poor condition and difference in color to the better ones,” she adds. “Before this was done, Ed did the required steps to fix any damage, such as gluing and clamping pieces together. There were some tiny circular pieces that were missing, and Ed found a perfect replacement at the hardware store.”

Once this work was complete, the Stations were ready to be painted. Debbie mixed 30 unique colors of paint to use for the reliefs and their intricate details.

“The master artisans who carved each Station gave them incredible detail — such as Jesus’ depiction on Veronica’s veil, the musculature of the bodies, veins and tendons, nails, hair, facial expressions, and flowing garments,” she says. “One detail of note is that the guard in the seventh Station has one tooth.”

During the restoration, prayer was an important part of Debbie’s work.

“Before I began a painting session, I would pray to God and Mary and ask for the grace and help to make them look beautiful,” she says. “I would

listen and pray the Stations of the Cross as I painted each one, especially when I was painting Jesus. I’d pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet as well. I’d listen to some Gregorian chant at times, but there was also some rock and Hawaiian slack key to keep me going.

“I wanted to do this to give praise and thanks to God for my husband, children, grandchildren, our marriage, and all the blessings, people, and experiences in my life!” she adds. “It was a personal prayer from the depths of my heart to God. He gave me this talent, and this was the perfect way to use it. I am so thankful I was given the privilege of adding color to these magnificent reliefs of carved wood.”

The final step after painting the station was to apply orange oil. On April 11 — Monday of Holy Week — the work was finally done.

“I am grateful to Jesus and His love for us, and I am also grateful to Fr. Lio for the privilege of painting our Savior for our church community and everyone who visits,” Debbie says. “God gives us our talents and gifts so we can use them for His glory where they are needed. Gifts are meant to be shared, no matter how grand and wonderful, or small and seemingly unimportant. When we share our gifts, it pleases God. God uses us in ways we cannot fathom, so let us not be afraid to offer our talents for His use.”



*“I am grateful to Jesus and His love for us, and I am also grateful to Fr. Lio for the privilege of painting our Savior for our church community and everyone who visits. God gives us our talents and gifts so we can use them for His glory where they are needed.” — DEBBIE CUNNINGHAM*

## Sacrament of Confirmation: Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

*This June, on Pentecost, we celebrated as young members of our community received the Sacrament of Confirmation and were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on this important step on your faith journeys!*





## A Catholic's Guide to Good Reading for the Summer Season

**H**ave you been wondering what to read during vacation this year? Why not give spiritual reading a try?

There are thousands of titles — too many for any one person — just waiting to make a positive impact on your faith life. Reading is a fantastic opportunity for general spiritual direction and good practice for every searching soul.

Choose a title from “you can’t go wrong” authors such as Louis de Wohl, G.K. Chesterton, Peter Kreeft, Francis de Sales, C.S. Lewis, and Scott Hahn. Their works alone should take you well into the summer, and possibly through to the next decade. Or, choose from this list of great Christian books, in no particular order:

### *The Story of a Soul* by St. Therese of Lisieux

In this autobiography and all-time favorite Catholic book, St. Therese teaches her “little way” of spiritual childhood. Millions of copies have been sold worldwide.

### *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

One of the most popular introductions to the Christian faith ever published, this series of broadcast talks has been collected into book fashion. *Mere Christianity* sets out to “explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.”

### *Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism* by Scott and Kimberly Hahn

This offers a conversion story of a brilliant, anti-Catholic Scripture scholar and his wife to the Catholic faith. Now well-known speakers and

Catholic apologists, Scott and Kimberly recount their story with simplicity and love.

### *The Good News about Sex & Marriage: Answers to Your Honest Questions about Catholic Teaching* by Christopher West

This down-to-earth application of Pope St. John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* is an easy-to-read, yet insightful account of the Church’s teaching on sex and marriage.

### *What Catholics Really Believe* by Karl Keating

Addressing 52 of the greatest misconceptions of the Catholic faith, Keating draws upon Scripture and Tradition to dispel errors and explain the rationale behind Church teaching.

### *No Greater Love* by Mother Teresa

This anthology collects the teachings and sayings of St. Teresa of Calcutta. Founder of the Missionaries of Charity and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, St. Teresa of Calcutta speaks joyfully about her work with the poor and God’s call in our lives.

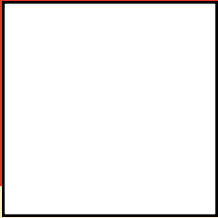
### *Surprised by Truth* edited by Patrick Madrid

Eleven converts give their Biblical and historical reasons for becoming Catholic. These unique personal testimonies continue to transform hearts throughout the world in an insightful read for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

## SOMETHING FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

As for the little ones at home, nothing settles them into bed better than a good book. Seek wholesome children’s literature that communicates

*continued on back cover*



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## A Catholic's Guide to Good Reading *continued from page 7*

Christian messages. Be sure they are positive, healthy stories with characters they can emulate that inspire virtues such as courage, justice, charity, patience, generosity and prudence. To name a few:

### *Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

This series of seven fantasy novels is considered a classic in children's literature. *Chronicles of Narnia* alludes to traditional Christian ideas within the framework of an exciting tale of adventure.

### *Little Acts of Grace* by Rosemarie Gortler, Mimi Sternhagen (Illustrator) and Donna Piscitelli

This beginning-level book is a fantastic way to introduce 2 to 4-year-olds to Catholic customs. It is written in an age-appropriate, beautifully explained way.

### *Any of the 20 Mary Fabyan Windeatt saint biographies*

This collection of saint stories, appropriate for children of all ages, is perfect to read aloud with the whole family.

### *Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: Missionary of Charity* by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavich

There is no better way to introduce children to St. Teresa of Calcutta! This book highlights her work with the poor and includes a special prayer for children.

### *The Story of Easter* by Aileen Fisher

Telling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, and exploring how different cultures celebrate Easter, this book is recommended for children in first through third grades.

## ..... **Mass Schedule** .....

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (English), 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Spanish)

Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 5 p.m. • Confessions: Saturday 9 a.m. • Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.