



# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## Join Us for the Charity Walk on May 9

All Are Welcome to Enjoy the Fun for a Great Cause

**R**ooted in the heart of the Church's Corporal Works of Mercy, this year's annual Charity Walk invites the community to put faith into action. Each step taken supports the call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and shelter the homeless — simple acts with life-changing impact. The walk is more than a fundraiser; it is a shared witness that love, when practiced together, can nourish bodies, restore stability, and build a stronger, more caring community. This year's event takes place on May 9 at Queens Bowl at Waikoloa Beach Resort.

Since its beginnings in the late 1970s, the Visitor Industry Charity Walk has grown into one of Hawai'i's most meaningful traditions of giving. On Hawai'i Island, the walk has raised more than \$5.6 million since the late 1970s, directly supporting vital community services. Each May, walkers, runners, and volunteers gather with a shared purpose



*Karen Unger and her son, Jake*

### In this Issue

- 2 Msgr. Thomas McGread: The Father of Catholic Stewardship in America
- 3 St. Catherine of Siena: Living a Life of Stewardship and Discipleship
- 4 Get to Know Deacon Craig Camello
- 6 The Significance of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 7 A Look at the Wedding Ministry

75-5769 Ali'i Drive,  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
(808) 326-7771  
[saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org)

ʻAPELILA/APRIL  
MEI/MAY  
2026

*continued on page 5*

## **Msgr. Thomas McGread:** The Father of Catholic Stewardship in America

In recent Catholic history, few figures stand out as prominently as Msgr. Thomas McGread, known as the “Father of Catholic Stewardship in America.” His visionary leadership and commitment to the principles of stewardship transformed not only his parish but also the entire Diocese of Wichita. Msgr. McGread's pioneering efforts continue to influence the Catholic Church, emphasizing the importance of stewardship as a way of life.

Msgr. Thomas McGread was born in Ireland in 1928 and his early life was marked by a strong sense of faith and a desire to serve the Church. He was ordained a priest in 1953 in Dublin, Ireland, and came to America shortly thereafter, serving in various capacities within the Diocese of Wichita.

Msgr. McGread's journey to becoming the Father of Catholic Stewardship began when he was appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Wichita in 1968. At the time, the parish was struggling financially, and he faced the daunting challenge of revitalizing it. Msgr. McGread was guided by a profound sense of faith and a deep belief in the principles of stewardship.

He introduced a unique approach to parish life, emphasizing the three Ts of stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure. Msgr. McGread encouraged parishioners to dedicate their time and talents to the church community, not just their financial resources. This shift in perspective was a significant departure from the prevailing model of merely focusing on financial contributions.

Under Msgr. McGread's leadership, St. Francis Parish experienced a remarkable transformation. The principles of stewardship became central to the parish's mission, with parishioners actively participating



in various ministries and volunteering their time and skills. The result was not only a revitalized sense of community, but also financial stability.

Msgr. McGread's innovative approach to stewardship at St. Francis Parish did not go unnoticed. One of his crowning achievements was leading the economically challenged St. Francis of Assisi parish

school out of the depths of debt to become one of the best and biggest parochial grade schools in the state. In 1968, the school had about 50 students and by 1999 had grown to 800. Msgr. McGread taught that stewardship is a way of giving, not out of a particular need, but rather a need to give back to God in gratitude. Because of the success of stewardship giving at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bishop Eugene Gerber introduced the concept to the diocese, and it was eventually adopted by other dioceses throughout the nation.

Msgr. McGread's stewardship model gained national recognition. He was invited to speak at the first International Conference on Catholic Stewardship. His presentations and teachings left a lasting impression on the Catholic Church, leading to further adoption of stewardship principles as a spiritual practice.

While he passed away in 2013, Msgr. McGread's legacy lives on. His life and work serve as a testament to the transformative power of stewardship when applied with faith, dedication, and a commitment to the well-being of the Church community. His leadership at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and within the Diocese of Wichita has left an indelible mark on the Catholic Church. His life and work continue to inspire Catholics to embrace stewardship as a way of life, strengthening both their faith and parish communities.

Msgr. McGread's life and legacy is chronicled in the 2011 book, *Grateful and Giving: How Msgr. Thomas McGread's Stewardship Message Has Impacted Catholic Parishes Throughout the Country*, by Deacon Donald McArdle. The book is available on Amazon and at <https://grateful-and-giving.company.site>.



## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

### *Living a Life of Stewardship and Discipleship*

**A**s Catholics, we often look to the lives of saints for inspiration and guidance in our own faith journeys. St. Catherine of Siena, whose feast day is celebrated on April 29, stands as a remarkable example of someone who not only embraced her faith, but also exemplified Catholic stewardship and discipleship in profound ways.

Catherine Benincasa, later known as St. Catherine of Siena, was born in 1347 in Siena, Italy. From an early age, she displayed a deep devotion to God and a remarkable sense of piety. Her life's journey was marked by an unwavering commitment to the Catholic faith, love for Christ, and a strong desire to serve others.

One of the most significant aspects of St. Catherine's life was her dedication to serving the poor and marginalized. She tirelessly cared for those afflicted by the bubonic plague, demonstrating a selfless love and compassion for the suffering. This act of charity and service to the needy resonates with the Catholic principle of stewardship — using one's resources and talents to help those less fortunate.

In our modern context, St. Catherine's example challenges us to actively engage in acts of charity, volunteerism, and social justice. By following her lead, we can transform our communities through service and outreach, reflecting the love of Christ to those who need it most.

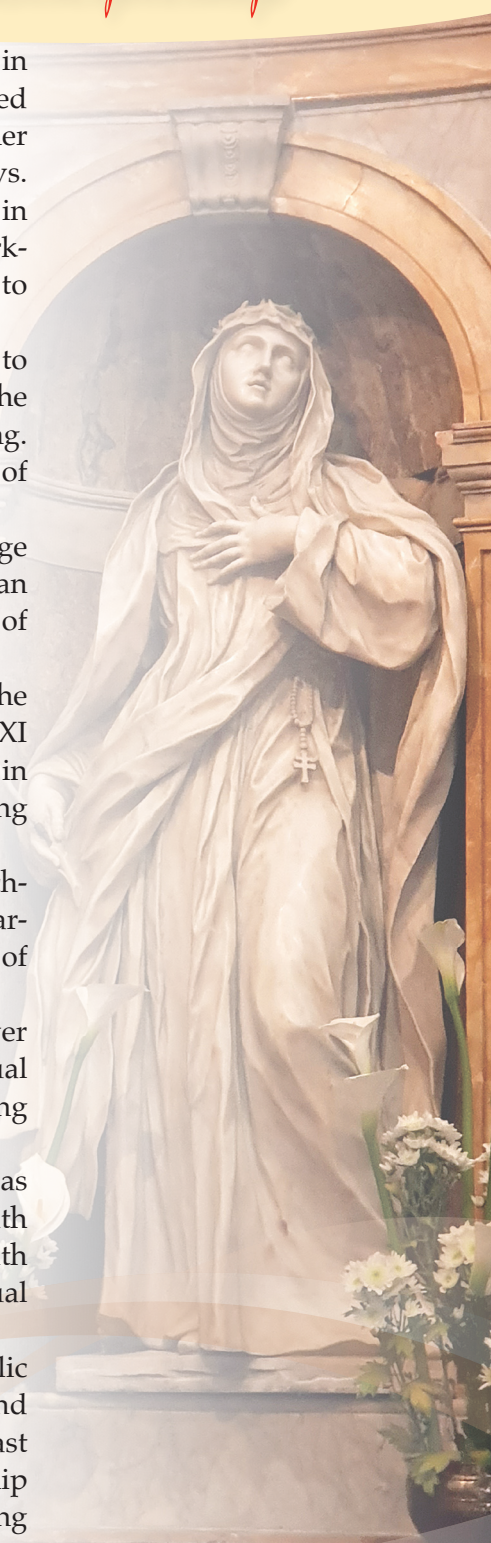
Catherine's life was deeply rooted in her faith and unwavering obedience to the teachings of the Church. She played a pivotal role in convincing Pope Gregory XI to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon, France, during a tumultuous period in the Church's history. Her dedication to the Church, even when it meant confronting powerful figures, exemplifies the essence of true discipleship.

Today, we can draw from St. Catherine's example of being obedient to the teachings of the Church and supporting its mission. By actively participating in our parish communities, sharing our faith, and upholding the traditions and teachings of the Church, we continue her legacy of faithful discipleship.

St. Catherine was known for her profound mystical experiences and deep prayer life. She had a strong personal connection with God and often received spiritual insights and guidance. These experiences remind us of the importance of nurturing our own prayer lives and seeking a closer relationship with God.

In our fast-paced, modern world, St. Catherine's devotion to prayer serves as a reminder of the significance of contemplation and spiritual growth in our faith journey. By prioritizing our prayer life, we can strengthen our relationship with God and better discern our role in serving others through stewardship as a spiritual practice of gratitude to God..

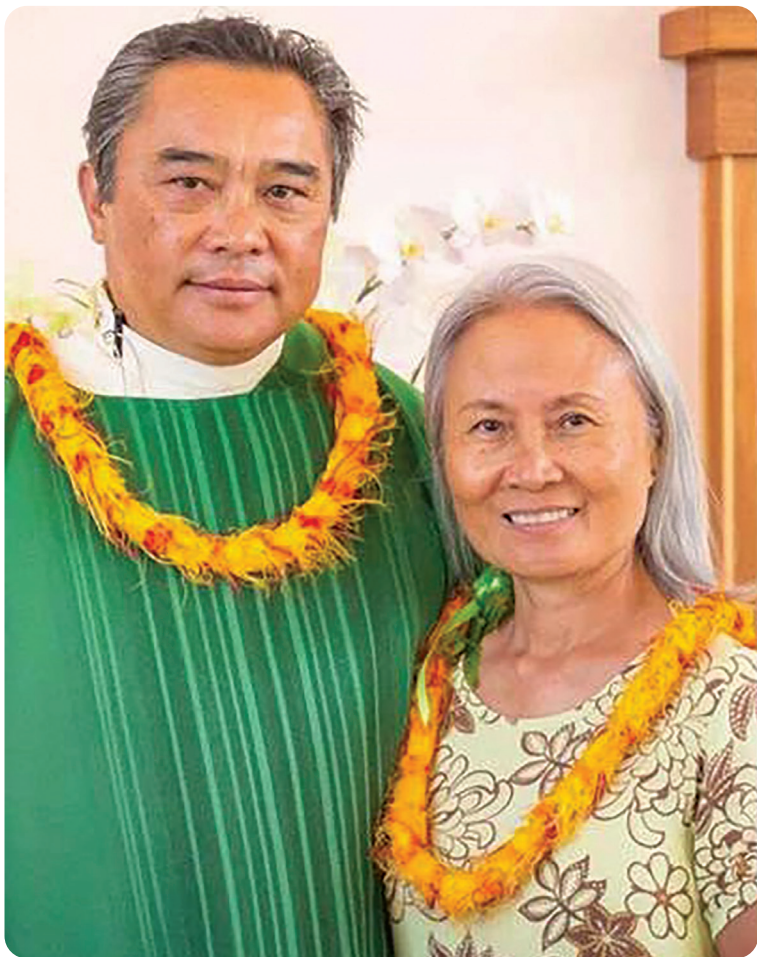
St. Catherine of Siena's life is a testament to the enduring values of Catholic stewardship and discipleship. Her dedication to service, unwavering faith, and spiritual depth continue to inspire Catholics worldwide. As we celebrate her feast day, let us reflect on her example and strive to live out the principles of stewardship and discipleship in our own lives, strengthening our bond with God and enriching our faith communities.



## Get to Know

# Deacon Craig Camello

Trusting God's Plan



*Deacon Craig Camello and his wife, Pam*

**D**eacon Craig Camello knows exactly where to place his trust — in our Good Lord. As he waits for a kidney transplant, facing long timelines and unexpected setbacks, his faith remains steady. While the journey has included both hopeful moments and disappointments, he approaches each day as a gift. Rather than dwelling on what may come, Deacon Craig focuses on the present, trusting that God is walking with him through every appointment, every lab result, and every conversation.

"You live every day as what God has given you," he says. "It's the present. You can't see what next week will bring."

Deacon Craig has been serving as a deacon since 2018, about five of those here at St. Michael the Archangel.

Due to long-term kidney disease that has gradually progressed over the years, Deacon Craig now finds himself in need of a transplant. After closely monitoring his kidney function for decades, his numbers have declined to the point where he has been placed on the transplant waiting list.

There was a hopeful moment when his younger brother immediately offered to donate.

"Why not? You're my brother," he told Deacon Craig. After committing to the process, his brother even lost 30 pounds to qualify for donation. But during further testing, doctors discovered an enlarged right ventricle, making him ineligible to move forward.

Though disappointed, Deacon Craig remains grateful that the testing uncovered a health concern his brother might not have otherwise known about — another reminder that God is at work even in the unexpected.

"He was quite sad and apologetic," Deacon Craig says. "I told him, 'Don't be sorry. This is good news for you. You found something you probably wouldn't have known if you didn't do what you did.'"

Deacon Craig is close to needing dialysis. With his blood type, it could be up to eight years before he's able to get a kidney from a deceased donor. But here's the amazing thing about the human body — healthy people can live with one kidney. Deacon Craig is asking people to consider being tested to donate. You may be a match or can donate through the paired exchange program.

"You might not be the right fit for me, but you could donate to someone else," he says. "And that opens the window for someone else to become my donor."

If you'd prayerfully consider donating, first ask around to others who have donated. It's amazing



## an: Deacon Craig's journey of hope and a Call to Give Life

how a person's other kidney can pick up the slack.

"For a donor, they have to be in good health," he says. "Everyone can survive on one kidney. My wife's classmate had one kidney removed because it looked cancerous. He's functioning on one kidney — no medication — because his kidney is operating at the capacity it should."

The process begins with an online health

assessment, followed by blood type testing and medical and psychological evaluations. Choosing to be an organ donor means giving hope—and life—to someone in need by passing on the priceless gift of life.

Deacon Craig is grateful for everyone's aloha and asks us to keep him in prayer, and he will do the same for all of us. He knows it's all God's plan, and he's trusting in Him.

*"You live every day as what God has given you. It's the present. You can't see what next week will bring." — Deacon Craig Camello*

## Join Us for the Charity Walk on May 9 *continued from front cover*

— exercise and giving back. The event is sponsored by the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association and its hospitality partners, whose leadership and generosity make the Charity Walk possible year after year.

Karen Unger has been on the Catholic Charities board for about six years. This was the impetus for her to get involved in the Charity Walk, and it has since become a cherished tradition.

"Over the years, our community has only increased in numbers, and more and more people are seeing the benefits of this wonderful event," she says.

Catholic Charities Hawaii Island is one of many recipients to receive a grant from funds raised through Charity Walk. Funds go to housing assistance, senior services, emergency financial assistance for families in crisis, and many other social services. All the money raised stays on the island.

"As a Catholic, we are called to help those in need, and as a human, I care," Karen says.

The Charity Walk's 3.1 miles are lined with smiling faces and snacks. Karen loves the energy of this event.

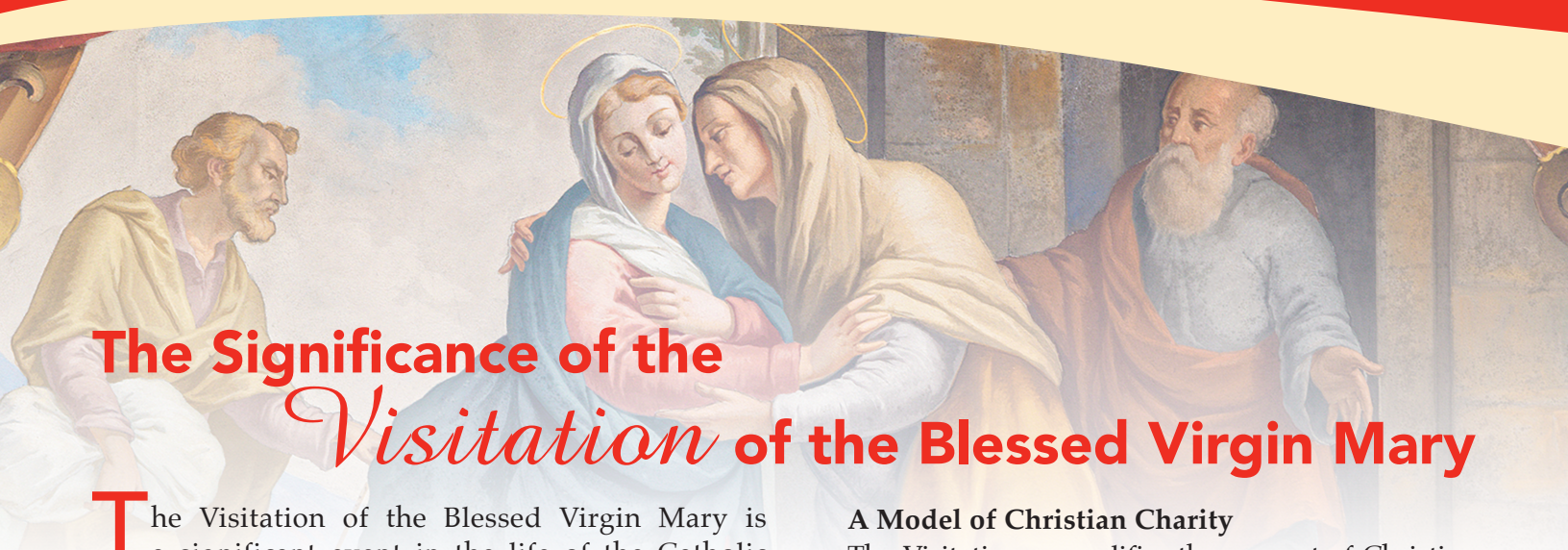
She shares a story about longtime participant, Tony, who got involved because his employer covered registration for the first 15 people. He always took one spot. He has participated for the last 28 years.

Those who want to get involved outside the day of the event can help collect monetary donations at the Masses in the weeks leading up to May 9. Help is also needed with the setup on the day of the walk.

"This event is the best time to introduce yourself to a fellow participant and get to know their story and why they support a specific organization," Karen says. "Connect over the delicious food and fun that is happening."

*"This event is the best time to introduce yourself to a fellow participant and get to know their story and why they support a specific organization. Connect over the delicious food and fun that is happening." — Karen Unger*

*For more information, check out [www.charitywalkhawaii.org/hawaii-island](http://www.charitywalkhawaii.org/hawaii-island).*



## The Significance of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**T**he Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a significant event in the life of the Catholic Church, commemorating the visit of the Virgin Mary to her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. This event, celebrated each year on May 31, holds profound theological and spiritual significance.

### A Journey of Faith and Joy

The Visitation marks a moment of profound faith and joy as the Virgin Mary, upon receiving the angel Gabriel's message that she would conceive and bear the Son of God, hastened to visit Elizabeth. It is an embodiment of Mary's humility and obedience, as she embarks on a journey to serve her cousin, who is also blessed with a miraculous pregnancy.

### Encounter with the Messiah

The meeting of Mary and Elizabeth is a poignant moment, as it is the first recorded encounter between Jesus, still in Mary's womb, and John the Baptist, in Elizabeth's womb. According to the Gospel of Luke, when Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy. This profound connection is a testament to the divinely ordained roles of Jesus and John in the plan of salvation.

### A Sign of God's Presence

The Visitation is a powerful sign of God's presence and grace. Mary's visit brings blessings to Elizabeth's household, and it is during this visit that Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, proclaims Mary as "blessed among women" and acknowledges the significance of Mary's role in God's plan. Mary's *Magnificat*, a beautiful hymn of praise to God, is also recited during this encounter, emphasizing the importance of humility, gratitude, and recognizing God's blessings in one's life.

### A Model of Christian Charity

The Visitation exemplifies the concept of Christian charity, demonstrating the importance of caring for one another. Mary's willingness to travel to assist her cousin, who was likely in need of support during her pregnancy, reflects a deep sense of compassion and solidarity. This act of charity serves as an example for Catholics to emulate by reaching out to those in need, particularly family and friends, in times of joy or difficulty.

### The Role of Women in Salvation History

The Visitation underscores the significant role of women in salvation history. Mary and Elizabeth play pivotal roles in the unfolding of God's plan. Mary's "yes" to the angel's message initiates the Incarnation, and Elizabeth, in recognizing the divine presence in Mary, blesses her and the child in her womb. This highlights the importance of women as key figures in God's redemptive plan.

### Celebrating the Feast of the Visitation

The Feast of the Visitation is celebrated on May 31 in the Catholic Church. On this day, Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass, reflecting on the Visitation's significance and drawing inspiration from Mary's faith and charity. It is also an occasion for Catholics to honor the role of women in the Church and to renew their commitment to humility, service, and the praise of God.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary holds immense significance in the Catholic Church. It signifies a moment of faith, joy, and divine presence, emphasizing the importance of Christian charity, the role of women in salvation history, and the recognition of God's blessings. The solemnity celebrated on May 31 serves as a reminder of these essential aspects of the Visitation, inspiring Catholics to live out these values in their own lives.



## A Look at the Wedding Ministry

### Welcoming and Preparing Engaged Couples Who Are Entering into the Sacrament of Marriage

For a couple preparing to be married, engagement is a season of anticipation and excitement, but it can also feel overwhelming. As engaged couples prepare for their wedding day, they are also preparing for a lifelong vocation of marriage together. More than a contract or legal agreement, the marriage covenant is a vocation of service to one another in the eyes of our Church.

The Wedding Ministry here at St. Michael the Archangel ensures the couple feels welcome and that the wedding ceremony itself is a seamless, peace-filled celebration of this beautiful sacrament. Paulette Adams leads this ministry along with a couple of volunteers who help support.

"I enjoy meeting the couple, hearing their story, where they're from, why they decided to get married here, just find out what their story is," Paulette says. "I'm also part of the greeter ministry, so it's just kind of an extension of that welcoming attitude we have at St. Michael. It's a very nice place to be. I just like meeting people, putting them at ease — to make it the best for the bride and groom."

Paulette stepped into this role about 10 years ago, shortly after the new church building was dedicated. When Fr. Lio asked her to begin leading the ministry, she had no idea what her "yes" would mean.

"I had no idea of what it would entail or look like," she says. "With the help of the office assistants at the time, we figured out what to do. It's been a process of learning."

Now, Paulette helps coordinate every wedding that takes place here. At its most, there were a dozen weddings in a single year. So far, there are five booked for this year.

Most of the couples who choose to have their wedding at our parish are destination weddings. There are couples from across the world — Australia, Canada, and



(From left) Wedding Ministry members Theresa Hernandez, Judy Chaput, Paulette Adams, and Pat Fornutaro

beyond — who travel to the island and choose St. Michael the Archangel as their church for the celebration. This means Paulette and her team have an opportunity to extend hospitality to these visitors as they celebrate one of the most important days of their lives.

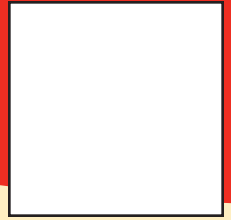
With most of the couples travelling here to celebrate their big day, most of the coordination takes place over email or video calls, such as picking out the wedding readings.

"Most of the details are organized before the rehearsal, before I even really meet them," Paulette says. "Oftentimes, the couple doesn't arrive on the island until a day or two before the wedding, so everything needs to be done ahead of time."

The couple meets with Paulette the day before the wedding for a rehearsal to go over all the last-minute details and a walkthrough of the ceremony. If the couple has never been to the church before, it helps them to see the church and its surroundings to ease their

*continued on back cover*

*"I start the rehearsal with a prayer, and I remind them how in the book of Jeremiah, the Lord tells him to tell the people, 'I am going to enter a covenant with them, they will be my people.'" — Paulette Adams*



## St. Michael the Archangel Parish

75-5769 Alii Drive  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



## A Look at the Wedding Ministry

*continued from page 7*

nerves before the big day.

"I start the rehearsal with a prayer, and I remind them how in the book of Jeremiah, the Lord tells him to tell the people, 'I am going to enter a covenant with them, they will be my people,'" Paulette says. "This couple will stand before the altar as God as the witness and enter into a covenantal relationship."

Paulette talks about the weight of the vows that the husband and wife will exchange the following day, and the importance of the covenant they are making to

each other. She also likes to get to know the couple and put their minds at ease that everything is going to be taken care of on the day of the wedding.

"They're very thankful for our help," Paulette says. "Once we get them down the aisle, then it's less stressful."

The Wedding Ministry works with other ministries and its members in our parish, such as the lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Music Ministry, and altar servers. It is truly a labor of love!



*Newlyweds Mr. and Mrs.  
James and Mary Kopanic Jr.*

*To get involved in the Wedding Ministry, sign up during the stewardship renewal in November or by contacting the parish office at 808-326-7771.*

### Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m. • Sunday: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., and 4 p.m. (English), 12 noon (Spanish) • Confessions: Saturday 9 a.m.

Daily: Mon-Sat 7 a.m. (St. Michael) • Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 5 p.m. (Immaculate Conception) • Wed 6 p.m. (Immaculate Conception in Spanish)

Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.