



St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Humbly Sharing the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord

There are many ways to get involved in the Catholic Mass, from singing in the choir to serving as a lector. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.” We need everyone to make our Masses beautiful. One ministry requires its stewards to take the utmost care for their work — the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Of course, the most important part of the Catholic Mass is when attendees receive Jesus’ Body and Blood in the Eucharist, and these dedicated volunteers administer this important sacrament.

Debbie Gallo has served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion here for about 10 years. She also coordinates the ministry and was part of the ministry at her former parish in Washington.

“When you are serving in this ministry, there is nothing else but the love of Jesus,” Debbie says. “It’s between myself



and Him and the communicant. When I see the yearning, it humbles me. It’s like I don’t think of anything else. It’s all gone.”

Debbie says that serving this ministry allows her to have all her worries and burdens disappear while serving.

“I’m aware of this humbling experience,” she says. “We as lay people are allowed to assist our priests to do this.”

As a lector and member of the Music Ministry, Debbie is involved in various ways in many Masses. But serving as an

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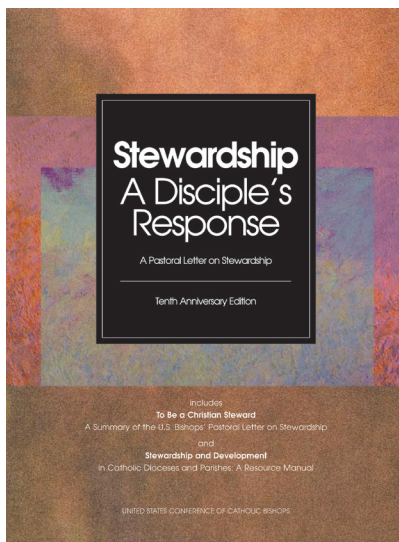
Embracing Stewardship: A Disciple's Response: A Blueprint for Catholic Life

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a pastoral letter that would resonate through the years, shaping the way Catholics perceive and practice their faith. Titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, this document serves as a profound blueprint for how Catholics should live stewardship as a way of life and is — in essence — the roadmap for how we live out stewardship at our parish.

At its core, stewardship is not merely a financial concept, but a profound spiritual principle deeply rooted in Catholic teachings. The 1992 pastoral letter seeks to enlighten Catholics on the transformative power of stewardship, inviting them to view their lives through the lens of discipleship and responsibility.

One of the pivotal messages of the document is the recognition that everything we have — our time, talent, and treasure — is a gift from God. Stewardship, as outlined by the USCCB, is the grateful and responsible management of these gifts in a way that reflects our love for God and others. It is a call to live out the Gospel in concrete and intentional ways, not just within the walls of the church but in every aspect of our daily lives.

The pastoral letter emphasizes that stewardship is not an optional aspect of the Christian life but an essential response to God's love. It challenges Catholics to move beyond mere Sunday worship and integrate their faith into every facet of their existence. In essence, stewardship is presented as a way of life, a continual commitment to recognize and utilize God-given gifts for the betterment of the world.



Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a must-read for any devoted Catholic looking to take his or her own stewardship to the next level. The USCCB's pastoral letter is available for purchase online through various outlets, including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ascension Press, and more. Search for the document online and pick up a copy!

Furthermore, the document urges Catholics to embrace stewardship with a spirit of generosity, emphasizing the importance of sacrificial giving. This sacrificial aspect goes beyond monetary donations; it encompasses the giving of one's time and talents for the service of others. By doing so, individuals are called to be active participants in building a community that reflects the love and compassion of Christ.

Stewardship is not a one-size-fits-all concept, and the pastoral letter recognizes the diversity of gifts within the Catholic community. Each person is uniquely endowed with talents, and the document encourages a discernment process to identify and employ these gifts for the common good. In essence, the USCCB provides a framework for fostering a vibrant, engaged, and spiritually rich community by acknowledging and utilizing the varied talents of its members. The pastoral letter challenges Catholics to consider the broader implications of stewardship beyond the local parish. It

calls for a heightened awareness of social justice issues, advocating for a commitment to building a more just and compassionate society. Stewardship, in this context, becomes a catalyst for positive change in the world, encouraging Catholics to be agents of justice and mercy.

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response is a timeless guide for Catholics seeking to deepen their relationship with God through the practice of stewardship. It presents a holistic approach to living out one's faith, challenging individuals to recognize and utilize their God-given gifts in the service of others. By embracing stewardship as a way of life, Catholics can contribute to building a community that reflects the transformative power of God's love in the world.



Nurture Your Faith and Build a Relationship with Our Parish Priests

In the Catholic faith, our parish priests play a pivotal role as spiritual guides, confessors, and shepherds of the local faith community. Developing a personal relationship with your parish priests can be immensely beneficial for your spiritual growth. Here are some insights on the significance of building such relationships and advice for how you can approach our priests for advice on prayer and spiritual guidance.

Our parish priests are well-equipped to offer spiritual guidance and counsel. They possess a deep understanding of Catholic teachings, theology, and the spiritual needs of their parishioners. By fostering a relationship with your priest, you gain access to a valuable resource for navigating your faith journey.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an essential aspect of Catholic life. Our priests can guide you through the sacrament and offer the assurance of God's forgiveness. Building a relationship with our priests can make the confession process more comfortable and meaningful.

Everyone's spiritual journey is unique, and priests can provide personalized advice tailored to your specific needs and circumstances. They can help you develop a more profound prayer life, address doubts and questions, and navigate life's challenges through the lens of faith.

Priests often play a central role in fostering a sense of community within the parish. By building a relationship with our priests, you can become more deeply connected to the parish family and participate in various activities and ministries.

So, how do you approach our priests for advice, prayer, and spiritual guidance?

- **Respect Their Time:** Priests are often very busy with their pastoral duties. When seeking advice, it's essential to be respectful of their time. Schedule an appointment or attend

office hours if available and be punctual for your meetings.

- **Be Open and Honest:** When discussing your spiritual needs or questions, be open and honest with our priests. Share your concerns, challenges, and aspirations. The more they know about your spiritual journey, the better they can provide guidance.
- **Listen Actively:** During your conversations, actively listen to your priest's advice and insights. Their wisdom and experience can offer valuable perspectives on your faith and prayer life.
- **Ask Specific Questions:** If you have questions or issues you'd like to address, formulate them in advance. Specific questions can lead to more targeted advice and guidance.
- **Attend Parish Events:** Participate in parish events and activities to engage with our priests on a personal level. This can help establish a more comfortable and open relationship.
- **Practice Patience:** Building a deep, trusting relationship takes time. Be patient in nurturing your connection with our priests.

Developing relationships with our priests is crucial for Catholics seeking spiritual guidance, advice on prayer, and a deeper understanding of their faith. Parish priests are here to serve and support their communities, and by actively engaging with them, you can enhance your faith journey and cultivate a closer relationship with God. Remember that our priests are trusted sources of spiritual counsel and compassionate guides on your path toward spiritual growth and fulfillment.

Deacon Larry Denis Reflects on Vocation



Back in February 2020, Larry Denis joined our parish. He was a seminarian studying at St. Patrick Seminary and University in California when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"We were sent home, and I was blessed that Fr. Lio let me live and work at St. Michael while I attended online classes," Larry says. "I could have lived and gone to school in O'ahu with other seminarians, but it was a real blessing to be on Hawai'i Island where I grew up."

Additionally, Larry says it was a blessing for him to work so closely with Fr. Lio while he was deep in the discernment process.

"I really enjoyed seeing how Fr. Lio practiced his priesthood," Larry says. "Fr. Lio was so good to me. When restrictions eased up, I worked with Fr. Lio and the good people of the parish to start opening up the church for worship again."

Then, in August 2020, Larry returned to St. Patrick to continue his studies, and this past June 9, he was ordained to the transitional diaconate.

As we congratulate Deacon Larry on his ordination, we wanted to take some time to get to know his vocation story a bit better.

Deacon Larry's story started well before the COVID lockdowns brought him to St. Michael. As a young child, his parents raised him in the faith, and he credits much of his ability to hear the

Lord call him to the priesthood to the foundation of faith his parents provided for him.

Larry was born and raised in Hilo where he and his family attended St. Joseph Church. There, he was first exposed to the beauty of the priesthood, an experience he says made a big impact on him.

"We were blessed to have many good priests at St. Joseph, but one in particular was very special to us — Fr. Scott Bush," Deacon Larry says. "He recently went home to our Lord, but his model of being a good pastor has stuck with me."

Then, shortly after high school, God began calling Larry to serve the Church as a priest himself.

"I remember being out of high school for a little while and hearing God say, 'You should be a priest,'" Deacon Larry says. "I quickly dismissed it, because I wanted to be a teacher or a pilot instead."

But God continued to call him.

"In college, I heard Him say it again, and again I dismissed it," Deacon Larry says. "I was on my way to becoming an elementary school teacher."

Larry did, in fact, become a teacher. But God continued calling him. And one day, in November 2017, while driving with Fr. Steve Macedo, he turned to Fr. Steve and declared that he wanted to discern the diaconate.

"I told him that I wanted to go on a discernment weekend to become a deacon," Deacon Larry





My Journey: *God Called, He Answered*

says. "That way I could still teach but also be of service. He said, 'No, boss! You aren't married. You don't have any kids. Discern the priesthood instead.'"

Upon that prompting, Deacon Larry began to heavily discern his vocation. Shortly thereafter, he visited his sister in California, and he spent a great deal of time in adoration. There, he heard God call him again.

"I was visiting my sister in Folsom, Calif., and spent time in front of the Blessed Sacrament in their adoration chapel," Deacon

Larry says. "It was in that chapel that I heard Jesus say, 'Come and follow me.'"

After that encounter, Larry began the application process, and in 2019, after 15 years of teaching, he began seminary.

Today, now ordained to the transitional diaconate and eagerly awaiting his priestly ordination next year, God-willing, Deacon Larry says he is utterly grateful to the many St. Michael parishioners who encouraged him and prayed for him throughout his discernment process.

"The people of St. Michael are amazing," Deacon Larry says. "They are very generous and kind-hearted people — full of aloha!"

Deacon Larry, we are thrilled for you! Congratulations on your diaconate ordination. May God continue to bless your time in seminary and give you the grace you need to follow His call. We look forward to watching God use you to build His kingdom as a deacon and then as a priest. May you be blessed in all you do, and may God be praised!



"The people of St. Michael are amazing. They are very generous and kind-hearted people — full of aloha!"

— DEACON LARRY DENIS

St. Vincent de Paul:

A Shining Example of Faith, Stewardship, and Discipleship

St. Vincent de Paul, whose feast day is celebrated on Sept. 27, stands as a shining example of faith, stewardship, and discipleship in the Catholic Church. His life's work and enduring legacy continue to inspire Catholics around the world. As we commemorate his feast day, it's a fitting time to reflect on the importance of this remarkable saint.

St. Vincent de Paul was born in France in 1581 and went on to become a Catholic priest known for his extraordinary dedication to serving the poor and marginalized. He co-founded the Congregation of the Mission, commonly known as the Vincentians, and the Daughters of Charity, a religious community of women dedicated to assisting those in need. His life was dedicated to serving Christ through service to the least fortunate in society.

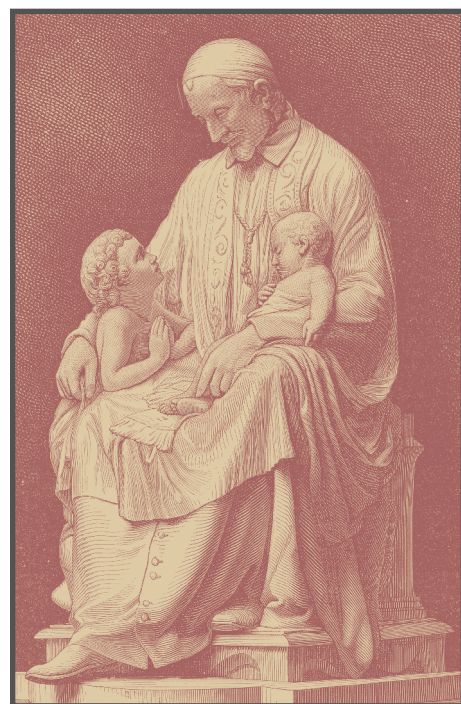
One of the key aspects that make St. Vincent de Paul so significant in the Catholic Church is his unwavering commitment to the poor and the downtrodden. He viewed the face of Christ in those he served and saw it as a moral and spiritual imperative to provide for their needs. His tireless efforts in this regard exemplify the concept of stewardship — the responsible and generous use of God-given resources, both in terms of material wealth and the gifts of time and talent.

St. Vincent's works were not limited to mere charity, but extended to structural change. He advocated for social justice and systemically addressing the root causes of poverty. He believed in empowering those in need to help themselves, and his teachings and actions continue to guide Catholics in the pursuit of social justice and the betterment of society.

St. Vincent de Paul's life was a testament to the principles of discipleship. He recognized that following Christ meant walking in His footsteps, serving others with love and humility. He encouraged his followers to approach their work with a spirit of service and a deep commitment to the Gospel's teachings. This commitment to discipleship became the cornerstone of the Vincentian tradition.

The Vincentian spirit remains vibrant today, with numerous organizations, charities, and Catholic communities worldwide inspired by St. Vincent de Paul's example. They continue his mission to serve the poor and marginalized, emphasizing the importance of faith, stewardship, and discipleship.

As we celebrate St. Vincent de Paul's feast day in September, we are reminded of his profound impact on the Catholic Church and society as a whole. He exemplified the true essence of faith by living



out his beliefs through selfless service to others. He underscored the importance of stewardship by generously sharing his time, talent, and resources with the needy. His life serves as a model of discipleship, encouraging us to follow Christ's call to love and serve unconditionally.

In a world where poverty and inequality still exist, the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul remain as relevant as ever. His example inspires Catholics to be instruments of God's love, compassion, and justice in the world, continuing his legacy of faith, stewardship, and discipleship.



Young Adults Group: *Building a Fellowship Community Rooted in Christ*

Being part of a community is an essential component of our spiritual lives. The need for community is even more important for our young adults, who seek answers to their questions and look for like-minded friends.

The young adults — ages 21 through 35 — of our parish have a new opportunity to find community, learn about the faith, and share together in our Young Adults Group.

“Our main goal is to create a community that allows us to speak freely of our faith and challenge one another to grow closer to Christ,” says Juliann Hamblin.

The group meets on Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Grace Parish Center. They are currently reading *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Fr. Jacques Philippe. Everyone who attends receives a free copy of the book.

“Our hope is that this ministry will always remain a Christ-centered community,” Juliann says. “While the topics may change and members ebb and flow, we pray the group will always be just what Christ wants it to be and lead by the Holy Spirit.”

The Young Adults Group began meeting in May 2024 to discuss the faith and share in fellowship with one another. Inspired by the call to be engaged in community like Jesus and His apostles, the group started as a way of gathering together with people from similar walks of life.

“Jesus created and encouraged community with His apostles and we are convinced He wants the same



Juliann and Cole Hamblin

for us,” Juliann says. “He wants us to live in community, to have people who share similar experiences and struggles. This is why we began this group — to gather young adults who care for, encourage, and pray for one another.”

Each meeting kicks off with a time for fellowship, then the group opens in prayer. Then, they read a chapter aloud and discuss the chapter together. After

the meeting, the members are all invited out to a nearby restaurant. Anyone is welcome to join at any time, no registration or regular commitment is required.

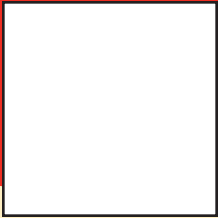
“You are welcome to come to the Young Adult Group whenever you are able,” Juliann says. “We chose a book that does not need to be read chronologically to make sense. The book is free and available at each meeting. No registration is needed, just come when you can!”

“At this time no volunteers are needed but it is our hope to begin volunteering around the community once the ministry gets more established,” she adds.

Because we need to reach all ages in our parish community, this group plays an important role in the life of our parish, filling a need for those who fall into the age range.

“While the Young Adult Group aims to serve young adults directly and help them form a community to grow closer to Christ, the group members will naturally feel more comfortable volunteering with other ministries as they develop more friendships with fellow parishioners,” Juliann says.

For more information about the group, contact Cole or Juliann Hamblin through the Parish Office at 808-326-7771 or stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org.



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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is her favorite ministry.

"You get to see the yearning and joy as they are receiving," she says. "There's more of a human, person-to-person contact than the other ministries that I help with."

Debbie got involved as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion through a personal invitation. She believes this is a great way to engage people — by inviting them to get involved.

"I had the same reaction that many people have, and that is 'I'm not worthy,'" Debbie says. "I say the same thing that I was told — 'Who is?'"

And as Debbie points out, when you are asked to be involved in a ministry, that's an invitation from God, not from the person who is asking.

"He is just using you as a facilitator," Debbie says.

"You can't mess up this ministry as long as you are not irreverent."

Debbie invites parishioners to participate as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion — she could always use more people to add to the schedule. She would love to see more youth and young adults involved in ministries.

"Pray about it," Debbie says. "You are there anyway, so it's not taking more of your time."

To become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, contact Debbie Gallo at 619-507-4560 or trigallo@mac.com.

Mass Schedule

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