



# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## PARISHIONER PROFILE:

### MARLON RAMÍREZ AND `OHANA

#### *Coming Together in Faith While Preparing to Receive Sacraments*

**F**or Marlon Ramírez and his wife, María Cristina Malagón, watching their three children enter the Church and receive the sacraments has brought their entire `ohana together in faith.

“After all these experiences, I feel that we grew closer together as a family, in Church, and at home,” Marlon says. “We have become better parents to our kids and better persons ourselves. Every Sunday, as a united `ohana at church and at home, we are closer to the presence of Our Father, God!”

Marlon is originally from Guatemala, and María Cristina is from Mexico. Their three children — Evelyn, 13; Sofie, 8; and Mateo, 4 — were born here on Hawai`i Island. They first came to the parish a little over a year ago. This particular chapter of their faith journey began when Marlon and María Cristina heard that there would be Baptisms taking place for Easter 2021.



*Marlon Ramírez and Maria Cristina Malagón with their children, Evelyn, Sofie and Mateo*

“We approached Fr. Noé to ask him if our kids could be baptized,” Marlon says. “He said yes, but because one of our daughters was over 7 years old, she had to go through RCIA with a catechist in order to receive the sacrament. He introduced us to her catechist, Dr. Ivan Toguchi. He was so kind and ready to start classes with Evelyn right away.”

## In this Issue

- 2 The Keys and the Sword  
*The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul*
- 3 Screen Time That Keeps Us Connected to Our Faith: *There’s an App for That!*
- 4 Aloha nō to These Disciples Growing in Their Catholic Faith
- 6 Remathau Group Brings Our Parish’s Ulithian Micronesian Community Together

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JUNE/JULY  
2021

*continued on back cover*



## The Keys and the Sword

### The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

On June 29, we celebrate the solemnity that marks the martyrdom of two of our Lord's principal Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, cornerstones of the Church of Rome.

The first reading on this feast day (Acts 12:1-11) tells us of Peter's miraculous deliverance from prison. Even through persecutions, we can see how God is always present in the most hopeless situations.

The second reading (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18) is Paul summarizing his own "pouring out" of his life as a libation. The way in which he poured it out is overwhelmingly significant — he gave his life as a missionary to gather all nations into God's Kingdom. Paul used the "sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" to make Christ known to all peoples (Ephesian 6:17).

The Gospel (Matt 16:13-19) recounts Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah. After this confession, we hear how Jesus gave him the "keys to the Kingdom." These "keys" represent the authority given to Peter and his successors over the Universal Church for episcopal governance and the ordained priesthood.

In his homily on June 29, 2005, at the time when he was Pope, Benedict XVI shared: "The Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is at the same time a grateful memorial of the great witnesses of Jesus Christ and a solemn confession for the Church — One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. It is first and foremost a feast of catholicity."

The celebration of our catholicity is a celebration of our uni-

ty in Christ. This unity endures unto the end, with Peter having the Keys to the Kingdom to bind and unbind and Paul the Sword of the Spirit to spread the Word of God.

Sts. Peter and Paul remind us that our faith is founded on something much higher than ourselves. Our holy faith is founded upon the rock, Jesus Christ. These men paid the ultimate price for their love of Jesus. In doing so, they energized the faith that has spread for centuries throughout the world.

Benedict XVI described further: "When Peter and Paul came to Rome, the Lord on the Cross who had uttered the first line of that Psalm was risen; God's victory now had to be proclaimed to all the nations..."

These beloved saints have shown us how to follow Christ with unwavering resolution. It is now our turn to be the witness to Jesus in society. Through the intercession, example, and holiness of Sts. Peter and Paul, may we too have the courage to persevere and boldly spread the Gospel by the way we live our lives!





## Screen Time That Keeps Us Connected to Our Faith: *There's an App for That!*

**"**Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."

These words from Pope Francis weren't delivered during a homily at St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square — nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments, the Catholic Church — led by our Holy Fathers, from Pope St. John Paul II through Pope Francis — strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world in this era of the New Evangelization.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. There are now many good Catholic content creators and social media influencers responding to the Church's call to proclaim the Gospel "from the rooftops" of our modern techy world.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis took the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. In spring 2013, the Vatican released *The Pope App*, which featured quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings. Having since been relaunched as the *Vatican News App*, it continues to offer the latest news and information from Pope Francis and the Holy See.



Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists have taken the technological gifts at their fingertips and are utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (formerly from Chicago), whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from a Catholic perspective, as well as the critically acclaimed *Catholicism* documentary series.

We offer all Word On Fire media productions free to parishioners through our parish's Flocknote service. To gain access, simply text the word "SMACCKK" to phone number 84576 or sign up online at <https://smacckk.flocknote.com>.

Throughout America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses, and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining a social media presence, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the unchurched and lukewarm cultural Catholics to the intentional disciples active in parish life.

Being knowledgeable of media tools available to us is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources our parish and diocese are using and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!



# Aloha nō TO THESE DISCIPLES

*Our St. Michael the Archangel `ohana is happy to welcome all those who entered into full communion with the Catholic Church this Easter.*

**Jaden Durán Ruiz**  
**Keoni Durán Ruiz**  
**Ryan Foster**  
**Tamia Kālele**  
**Jayden Lemus-Malagón**  
**Gael Shannon Ni'ihau**

**Elijah Ni'ihau**  
**Joshua Ni'ihau**  
**Michayla Ni'ihau**  
**Kiersten Peralta**  
**Evelyn Ramírez Malagón**





# GROWING IN THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH







# REMATHAU Ulithian

**A** big part of the splendor of the Church is that all of us bring our unique gifts together to form the Body of Christ. Catholic means “Universal” because the Church encompasses all of God’s creation. We are One Body made up of countless different distinct cultures that each form an important part of our individual and collective identities.

Here at St. Michael, the Remathau group — a Carolinian word that means “People of the Deep Sea” — brings the Ulithian Micronesian members of the community together. Through this ministry, the community can come together for fellowship and support, and keep their culture and traditions alive.

The Federated States of Micronesia is a sovereign country in Oceania, made up of four states — Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae — comprising 607 different islands (formerly a Trust Territory under US administration). Each of the four states has its own culture, traditions, and different language dialects — but they also have many common cultural similarities, such as the importance of the traditional extended family and clan systems.

“Yap and Chuuk were traditionally chiefdom islands, and Pohnpei and Kosrae had kings as their leaders,” says Fr. Romple Emwalu, a Chuukese priest

*“For new immigrants — especially for those who haven’t been anywhere else in the world — Western culture can cause a kind of culture shock.*

*It makes it a little easier for them if they are able to learn from the Micronesians who have been here for quite a while. They are leaving their islands, culture, family, the language they know — and learning about American culture from Americans is a very different experience than learning it from another Micronesian who has had the same experience, and can guide them along the way.” — FR. ROMPLE EMWALU*



# GROUP Brings Our Parish's Micronesians Community Together

currently serving at St. Elizabeth Parish on O'ahu. He works with various groups of Micronesians across the Hawaiian islands. "The people of the islands all organize themselves around these structures, and that's a way that they can relate to one another," he says. "Although there are differences, our cultures are all related, and if you trace the languages, the origins of the languages from each island are all similar."

Here at St. Michael, the Remathau group is made up of mostly Yapese Micronesians, primarily from the outer island of Ulithi. The group has provided a strong community for Yapese Micronesians on Hawai'i Island. In pre-COVID times, the group met regularly at a local park for fellowship, sports and activities for youth, and traditional celebrations. The members of the close-knit community are also pillars of support for one another.

"We are all there for each other when we need each other," says Mary Depey, who is one of the group's leaders. "Whenever someone is having a problem, or someone is sick, we all get together to help them. We also have an account where we help people out back home — if someone needs something, if someone needs to travel for medical purposes, if someone passes away out here and needs to be sent back home for burial — we always help out."

Fr. Romple points out that for Micronesians in Hawai'i, especially those who are new to the islands, this kind of community support is vital.

"For new immigrants — especially for those who haven't been anywhere else in the world — Western

culture can cause a kind of culture shock," he says. "It makes it a little easier for them if they are able to learn from the Micronesians who have been here for quite a while. They are leaving their islands, culture, family, the language they know — and learning about American culture from Americans is a very different experience than learning it from another Micronesian who has had the same experience, and can guide them along the way. And step by step, these people, later on, will be able to help new people who are coming to Hawai'i for the first time."

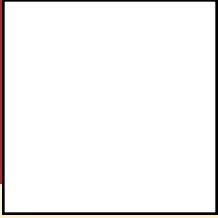
The members of Remathau also work together to serve the parish regularly, primarily through cleaning and maintaining the church grounds.

"We mow the grass, trim down the trees, plant shrubs around the church, and pull the weeds around the trees and yards," Mary says. "We want to continue to get more involved and have the youth from our community serve in the choir, and help out in other ways. It's important for us to give back to our parish."

Going forward, and looking beyond the pandemic, Mary hopes to incorporate more spiritual formation into their group activities.

"We have been getting together on Zoom and have been praying the Rosary with our whole families," she says. "All the kids have learned so much, and my 10-year-old can even lead the Rosary. It's definitely been a good thing to come out of the pandemic. We'd really like to continue to build on this and have more activities like that in the future."

*For more information about Remathau, or to get involved,  
please contact group president Linus Soholmar at 808-987-9764.*



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### MARLON RAMÍREZ *continued from front cover*

Leading up to Easter, Evelyn attended RCIA classes with Ivan every Sunday for one hour before Mass.

"The process was very straightforward, easy, and helpful," Marlon says. "She got all the tools she needed from the parish, and Ivan was there for her at all times. She was baptized on Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil, where she also received Confirmation and First Holy Communion. My son, Mateo, was also baptized the next day, thanks to the Lord God!"

The family's middle daughter, Sofie, was already baptized, so she prepared to receive Confirmation and

First Holy Communion with catechist Judy Glickstein. She received her sacraments at St. Michael this past May.

"Judy taught her every Sunday before Mass, just like Evelyn," Marlon says. "Judy is one of the kindest people at the church. Just like Ivan, she has a lot of knowledge and experience, and they both taught our daughters the path to God's kingdom! All of this means a lot to my wife and me. We were so blessed to see our daughters receive these sacraments."

*If you would like more information about RCIA for Children,  
please contact Sharmayne Naone at 808-938-3895.*

### Mass Schedule

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