



# Religious Education Newsletter

Diocese of Honolulu

January 2013

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



### Christmastide Musings

The song *Blessings*, by Laura Story brought tears to my eyes as I reflected upon the recent murder of innocents in Connecticut, China, and in so many war-torn regions around the world.

As I struggled to keep a prayerful and hopeful Christmas in my heart, I found comfort in the marvelous sequence of scripture readings throughout the liturgical year, especially during the Christmastide. We embrace the good news of Jesus' birth on December 25, then are immediately challenged in the days to follow to imitate the courage of Christian martyrs, to dedicate our lives, despite overwhelming hardships, to bringing Christ's message of love to our world.

I'm sure many tears flowed once again on December 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs as

we listened to Matthew 2:13-18 which recounts the innocent children who are murdered by Herod in his obsessive rage to destroy the Christ. We know God continues to cry out for all who mourn the slayings of our innocent sons and daughters.

God does not promise us a rose garden. In fact, he promises us just the opposite. In John [16:33](#) He says "In this world you will have trouble." Yes, we *will* have trouble. But the song also offers words of encouragement: "but take heart, for I have overcome the world!".

You can listen to it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2wHE2hASJM>.

#### Lyrics

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace  
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep  
We pray for healing, for prosperity  
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering

All the while You hear each spoken need  
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops

What if Your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights  
are what it takes to know You're near?

What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?  
We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear

We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near  
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love  
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough  
And all the while You hear each desperate plea  
And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops  
What if Your healing comes through tears?  
And what if a thousand sleepless nights  
are what it takes to know You're near?

And what if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise?

When friends betray us, when darkness seems to win  
We know that pain reminds this heart  
That this is not, this is not our home  
It's not our home

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops

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What if my greatest disappointments  
or the aching of this life  
Is the revealing of a greater thirst  
This world can't satisfy?

And what if trials of this life  
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights  
Are Your mercies in disguise?



**E Pule Kakou:**  
*Let Us Pray*

## Aloha Means Hello...

Please join me in welcoming **Kristina DeNeve, Ph.D.**, our new Coordinator for Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization. Kristina holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Theology from St. Ambrose University. She has made frequent trips to the islands and has developed an authentic love for the land and its people.

For the past four years, Kristina was Director for the Office of Evangelization and Welcoming in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Her professional experience also includes Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at Baylor University and board member and online presenter for Paulist Evangelization Ministries.

Dr. Kristina may be reached at [kdeneve@rcchawaii.org](mailto:kdeneve@rcchawaii.org) or (808)203-6767 or toll-free



**Aloha Kristina and Dexter!**



*Renewing the Vision*



## Aloha Means Farewell...

### Aloha, Keahi Teson, Safe Environment Coordinator

Keahi Teson has resigned from her position as Safe Environment coordinator, effective December 27, 2012. Jayne Mondoy, Director of Religious Education, will assume the duties of Safe Environment Coordinator until further notice.

Over the past year, Keahi has assisted with coordinating efforts which led to our successful on-site audit and introduced new curriculum options for safe environment training, all with a smile! Let us all wish her well and offer her our congratulations for her promotion to Director for Youth Ministry at St. Jude.

## Family-Based Safe Environment Training Monday, February 4, 2013 at St. Jude Parish from 7 – 8:30 PM.

In our many dialogues with catechists and parents, we have discovered that parents welcomed the Church's invitation to educate their children in ways that would help to change the tragic reality of child sexual abuse and create a safer environment for their children. We learned that catechetical leaders wanted to partner with parents and the larger Church to be part of the solution to the crisis of child sexual abuse in our society.

Several years ago, we introduced the Learning about LIFE (Love, Infatuation, Friendship, Exploitation) program by Sr. Kieran Sawyer, SSND. Since then, several parishes have successfully implemented the program and fully endorse its method of engaging parents and children in conversation over human sexuality issues in an atmosphere of respect and joy.

This year we will re-introduce the program

throughout the diocese by holding a series of Learning About LIFE demonstrations. We'll begin on Oahu and work our way through the neighbor islands throughout 2013.

The first demonstration will take place on:

**Monday, February 4, 2013 at St. Jude Parish from 7 – 8:30 PM.**

Event registration will be coming soon.

## BEARERS OF THE LIGHT CATECHIST WORKSHOPS

CLICK ON HYPERLINKS  
BELOW TO OPEN REGISTRATION FORM

[Big Island - March 2, 2013](#)

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,  
KEALAKEKUA**

CC 105 – Religious Education and the Law

CC 231 – Religious Education Standards and Assessments

[Maui - March 2, 2013](#)

**ST. ANTHONY JUNIOR-  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

CC 104 – Succeeding as a Catechist & Methods of Catechesis

CC 105 – Religious Education and the Law

CC 231 – Religious Education

**facebook**

**March 10—March 30, 2013**

[ONLINE CC 107: Introduction to Scripture](#)

## WE GO TO MASS



By now you should have received your complimentary copy of *We Go To Mass*. *We Go To Mass* is a worship tool to assist persons with disabilities – most particularly those within the autism spectrum – to participate more fully and actively in the Mass. Created in consultation with families of children within the autism spectrum and the Bishop's Advisory Board for Persons with Disabilities, WE GO TO MASS has been reviewed and approved by Monsignor John Mbinda, Diocesan Censor Librorum, and was granted an Imprimatur by Bishop Larry Silva in June 2012.

Want to get started but feeling a bit unsure? We're here to help! Whether you wish to obtain more copies of the book, register yourself or a family with the Ministry for Persons with Disabilities, consult with us regarding best practices or seek additional community resources, please contact the Ministry for Persons with Disabilities at the Office for Social Ministry at (808) 203-6702, email [itama-shiro@rcchawaii.org](mailto:itama-shiro@rcchawaii.org) or the of Religious Education at (808) 203-6745, email [jmondoy@rcchawaii.org](mailto:jmondoy@rcchawaii.org).

*May our work bear much good fruit in helping our brothers and sisters to better understand and participate in this source and summit of our faith!*

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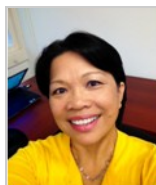
## STAFF

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**OFFICE CLOSED**  
**Monday, Jan 21, 2013**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## Neighbor Island Liaisons

**Michael Cruz, Kauai Vicariate**  
St. Catherine Church/School  
808.822.7900

**Sr. Angie Laurenzo, CSJ, Maui Vicariate**  
Christ the King Church  
808.877.6098

**Marjorie Fujimoto, East and West Hawaii Vicariates**  
808.217.6054