



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

## DIOCESE OF HONOLULU

WITNESS TO JESUS

October 26, 2016

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Sometimes, after the Star Light, Star Bright Christmas party, we receive thank you cards and letters from family members of the incarcerated mothers. We'd like to share with you two such letters from last year's program:

*"I want you to know how much I appreciate your ministry of hope for us families who have love ones serving time. I am extremely grateful of the amount of generosity you have blessed us with - all expense paid airfare for my granddaughters and myself; and gifts unexpectedly blessed with! Not to mention the time well spent with my daughter; brought tears of joy that I will cherish for the rest of my life!...May God bless all of you who graciously put this blessed program together." (a grandfather from a Neighbor Island caring for his 3 little granddaughters)*

*"Thank you again, you've given us a lot and yet you have given us both more. Both of us (my grandson and I) cannot thank you enough for all you have given us and shared with us. But there is one favor I would like to ask of you! I'm having a hard time to overcome the loss of my wife...We have been together for 35 yrs. and now it's hard being away from her. I've hit walls, not with my hands, no! I'm weak within myself, and trying very hard to hold myself up, and continue on in life. My daughter there (at WCCC) needs me yes, I know that, that's why I must stay strong for her also. Please find it in your thoughts and prayers to send me an extra piece of comfort so I may have strength to hold myself and carry on. I thank you very much, but I also thank our Father for all the blessings he has given us, the strength, the love, mostly the forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen. Thank you. (Another caregiver, a grandfather whose wife passed away 2 weeks prior to the Christmas party. He had lost hope, felt destitute, and was lifted by Star Light, Star Bright.)*

This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Star Light, Star Bright (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpKO5577d2M> Star Light, Star Bright 2015 - Year of Mercy: Bringing Families Together) which manifested in our diocese as a dream of hope that the simple act of giving would help mend damaged or strained relationships among incarcerated mothers, their children and caregivers.

The sadness of children being separated from their mothers for several - and too often many - years is heart-wrenching. The Star Light, Star Bright Christmas program provides moms and their children a day of meaningful and emotional reconnection, especially children from our Neighbor Islands. The program covers airfare, lodging and meals for the weekend at St. Stephen Diocesan Center. This year's Christmas party will be on **Saturday, December 10** in the Women's Community Correctional Center.

The success of Star Light, Star Bright is dependent upon donations, prayers and compassion for the families, especially the children, who struggle daily with the effects of Mom's incarceration. You can support the Star Light, Star Bright Christmas program by completing the enclosed form and mailing or e-mailing it to our office. Online donations can be made at [www.catholicahawaii.org/starlight](http://www.catholicahawaii.org/starlight). See the enclosures for details.

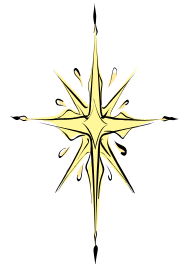
For questions, call us at 203-6722 or e-mail [prisonministry@rcchawaii.org](mailto:prisonministry@rcchawaii.org).

Yours in our Merciful and Loving God,

Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu  
Chancellor

Deacon Efrain Andrews  
Diocesan Prison Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

Paulette Vernay, Coordinator  
Star Light, Star Bright Christmas Program



Enclosures