



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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The Reverend Ryan D. Newman, Rector



A LETTER FROM THE REVEREND MARY TUDELA

Aloha All Saints' 'Ohana

In November of 2012, I left my home behind in Barrington, Illinois to serve as your interim rector. I'm often asked by my friends back on the mainland, Mary, how did you do it? How did you move away from us and become so happy in your new home? The most compelling answer I give to this question is that the people of All Saints' Church welcomed me into their family as if I were one of their own, that's how. From the first evening of abundant grace filled hospitality at the table of Nadine and Galen Nakamura, to serving as your priest, to the special gatherings across the congregation, to the weekly aloha hours that I cherish. All Saints' became my new home. And this 'Ohana is where my spiritual life on Kauai has taken root.

"We plan and God laughs". I love that expression because, as members of the clergy, if we are to really live into God's will, we must be open hearted about how our gifts will be used by our church. When I laid on the floor at my priestly ordination and dedicated my life to serve the church of God, I made that promise without limitations. I gave all of my life to God's service, no strings attached.

For a short while I will leave my spiritual home here at All Saints' to serve the people of St. Michael's in Lihue in the same way I served you. As many of you know, Bill Miller has accepted a call to serve a church in Louisiana beginning this summer. I have accepted Bishop Fitzpatrick's invitation to serve St. Michael's as their interim rector until their search is complete and their new priest arrives on island. We estimate that this will take approximately one year.

Aloha 'Ohana,

Mary's prayerful decision to take on the interim rector role at St. Michael and All Angels will be a huge blessing to the St. Michael's community and the Diocese. However, during this tenure away from her All Saints' 'Ohana, we will certainly miss Mary's joyful presence and leadership during Sundays at All Saints'. We look forward to seeing and connecting with Mary at non Sunday events and hopefully a few "joint-gatherings" between St. Michael's and All Saints'.

Mary goes with our love, prayers, and best wishes for a successful interim ministry. We pray also for our brothers and sisters at St. Michael's during this period of transition and discernment. May Christ continue to be present in our Churches and always guide our hearts and minds in the ministries entrusted to our care. In Christ,

Ryan

(Letter continues on the back side)

The mission of All Saints' is "To share and live the Good News of Jesus with members and our community, and to serve others."

A Church of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii | The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop

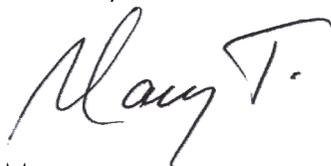
There is a huge blessing in all of this for me and that is that when the new rector for St. Michaels arrives, I get to return home to All Saints'. The most challenging time I've had since I've been living on island was those six months after Ryan and Erin arrived that I stayed away from All Saints' to allow for our new priest's ministry to launch unimpeded by my presence. That is a healthy way to do church and while not all of you agreed, it was important for me to be away during that time.

Ryan and I will continue to stay closely connected by meeting on weekdays and supporting each other's ministry.

I will miss our regular Sunday contact. I'll participate at non Sunday events as often as my new work schedule will permit me to, so please include me in your list of invitees!

I would ask you please to keep me and the people of St. Michaels in your prayers that I might lead them well and that their lay ministry leaders might work diligently to call their next priest. Please know that I will hold you all in my heart and prayers.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary T." in a cursive, flowing script.

Mary