

FR. RYAN MESSAGE: FEBRUARY 6, 2015 E-NEWS

Aloha All Saints' 'Ohana,

As I shared in my annual meeting presentation, All Saints' is poised to "Beautifully Grow" in 2015. This year, there are four areas of growth that the Vestry and I hope our 'Ohana engages in: (1) Outreach, (2) Lay Leadership, (3) Our 'Ohana; and, (4) The Kingdom of God.

Outreach. We have begun the planning process toward establishing and sponsoring a "Laundry Love" ministry site in Kapa'a. The *Laundry Love* ministry seeks to provide support to people struggling financially by assisting them with doing their laundry. In addition, the ministry creates opportunities for members of the All Saints' 'Ohana to engage our community as we serve them. Laundry is a daunting chore for many people, but for the working poor, the cost of doing laundry; not to mention the time involved in hauling it to a Laundromat, can be prohibitive. It can also mean going without other basic essentials. The project will be supported by All Saints' operational "outreach funds", private donations, and grants secured by the Church to pay for laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and quarters for laundry machines. Members of the All Saints' community will "minister" to the people by coordinating the patrons; assisting them with loading, transferring, and folding their laundry. There will be ample opportunity to "talk story" and build relationships with community members seeking the assistance of the Laundry Love ministry. To learn more about Laundry Love visit laundrylove.org.

Lay Leadership. In 2015, we will launch the Ministry Council that will draw together on a quarterly basis leaders from all of the various ministries of the Church. The goal of the Ministry Council will be to cultivate connections and collaboration among the ministries. The Ministry Council will be a place where leaders can engage other leaders, both experienced and emerging leaders, who will be instrumental in guiding our ministries to live out the mission and vision of All Saints'.

Our 'Ohana. It is our hope that 2015 will be a year of building relationships, a year of engagement, a year of making first impressions—and this opportunity extends to us "beautifully growing" our 'Ohana. All Saints' is a vibrant center of spiritual formation, family-centered ministries, early-childhood education, social activism, and community outreach. As I said in my sermon last weekend, "People do not grow Churches, relationships grow Churches." We want to see our 'Ohana grow and continue serving the people of Kaua'i for many generations to come. In order to achieve this goal of growth, each of us must engage in the habit of building relationships with people outside the Church and inviting them to experience All Saints' through our worship, ministries, and special events.

The Kingdom of God. Ultimately, all that we "beautifully grow" is intended to build up the Kingdom of God and to reflect God's glory. Growth for the sake of growth is vain. Whereas growth that is Christ-centered grounds our intentions, empowers us to excel, and richly blesses us with new and extraordinary opportunities. As we beautifully grow, we grow closer to our Lord and Savior and offer witness to the coming Kingdom of God.

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting," says Ralph Waldo Emerson. God has engaged us in His beauty . . . Our call is to engage others by sharing God's beauty—that is Good News! In 2015, God willing, All Saints' will beautifully grow.

Mahalo nui loa,
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