

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
*May 17, 2020*



**Saint John Vianney Parish  
Community**

920 Keolu Drive, Kailua, HI 96734-3842

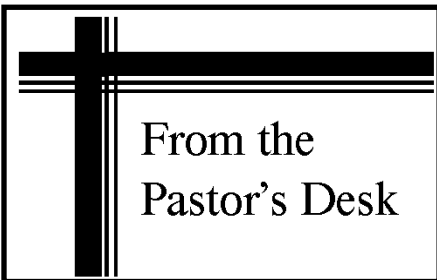
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Dear Parish Family,

This Sunday's gospel reading opens with a simple, clear and direct statement from Jesus: *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."* The only way in which we can demonstrate our love for God and Jesus in a world filled with billions of people, all loved into life by God and all created in the image of God, is to love without reservation every person we encounter. Jesus himself proclaimed that the greatest commandment is to love. And that is the theme that runs all through John's Gospel and Letters. In fact he goes so far as to say that anyone who claims to love God and hates his or her neighbor is a liar: *"... whoever does not love their brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."* (1 John 4, 20).

Without love in their early years, children may shrivel and die. Without love and affirmation in our adult years, we struggle with relationships, we fail to find self-acceptance and we don't find lasting, inner peace. Irrespective of our age and personal maturity, we all know how much we need to be loved, accepted, affirmed, encouraged and wanted. And occasionally we know the pain and loneliness that fill our lives when those experiences are missing. Jesus knew the confusion, disorientation and depression that awaited his disciples once he left them, and promised that he would not leave them to fend for themselves, to know the experience of being orphaned. So he promised them the support of an Advocate who could not be any closer, the Spirit of God who would dwell within them. That same Spirit is alive and dwells in each of us.

During this pandemic, and in a concrete way, we show our solidarity and love for the needy by sharing our non-perishable food items with those who suffer the effects of hunger around us.

In the Risen Christ,

Fr. Peter

## Stewardship of Treasure



**Offertory:** Our weekly donation for **May 9-15 2020** is \$ 6,773 and the weekly budget is \$ 9,288. Therefore, we have a **deficit** of \$ 2,515.

MAHALO for your continued SUPPORT to GIVE. If you give online, keep giving online, and if you give by envelope, you can mail or drop off your donation at the Parish Office or place in the Slot Box.



**Healing of  
Douglas Barbieto  
and Sandy Chong,  
the Passing of  
Jack Sullivan and  
for the Homebound**

Please join the **Sodality Ladies** in reciting the Rosary—on Sat., May 23, 2020 from 9 am to 10 am. Social distancing and wearing of mask or face covering are required for your safety.



## School News by Earl Walker

The coronavirus pandemic has exerted an economic hardship not only on Hawaii families but also on our beloved school. With so many parents out of work and having lost income, many will be unable to pay their child's tuition next year. We have families who would love to commit to keeping their child in our school, but not sure they will be able to pay tuition without financial aid. As a parish community, we must take clear and decisive action to ensure the viability of our school.

We are establishing a **Scholarship Fund** to help those parents keep their child in our school next year. We need your support for this Fund so that we can continue providing these children an outstanding education. Please contribute to this Fund; mail a check to **SJV Foundation Fund**; 940 Keolu Dr. 96734. Mahalo for your generosity.



## Know Your Catholic Faith Corner

### *Apologetics without apology! History of why Catholics confess to a Priest*

We have seen from scripture how Jesus handed over the authority to forgive sins to his Apostles in John 20:21. Some people argue that God has already forgiven us and there is no need to further ask for forgiveness. But if God has already forgiven all of a person's sins, or will forgive them all (past and future) upon a single act of repentance, then it makes little sense for Jesus to tell the apostles that they have been given the power to "retain" sins, since forgiveness would be all-or-nothing and nothing could be "retained." Furthermore, if at conversion we were forgiven all sins, past, present, and future, it would make no sense for Christ to require us to pray: "forgive us our trespasses, as we also forgive those who trespass against us." (Mt 6:12-15). So, the Sacrament of Confession is real and has evolved to what we know it today.

**The witness of Tradition:** In the early Church, publicly known sins such as apostasy (an act of refusing to continue to obey, or recognize a religious faith) were often confessed openly in church, though private confession to a priest was always an option for privately committed sins. Still, confession was not just something done in silence to God alone, but something done "in church," as the *Didache* (A.D. 70) indicates. Other Christian writers, such as Origen (185-254), Cyprian (d.258), and Aphraates (early 300s) state clearly that confession is to be made to a priest. Cyprian and Ambrose (339-397) writes that "the forgiving of sins can take place only through the priests." These sayings are never seen as anything new and novel, but as reminders of accepted belief.

History therefore has shown that this power to forgive is two-fold: to loose (to forgive) or to hold them bound (not to forgive). This means that sins had to be verbally confessed to the priests so they could know which sins to forgive and which ones to retain.

## *Prayer During a Pandemic*



*Lord Jesus,*

*Hear our pleas, our good shepherd and divine physician. We implore your mercy in the wake of an outbreak of serious illness and disease.*

*Guide our efforts to prevent contagion and make preparations to care for those most vulnerable. Assist all professionals and volunteers who work to eradicate the epidemic now spreading. May our actions be marked by your steadfast love and selfless service and never by panic or fear.*

*Bestow your comfort and healing to the sick, sustain and strengthen them by your grace. May they know your closeness as they carry the cross of illness.*

*And may all you have called from this life come to worship you eternally with all the saints as you grant consolation and peace to their mourners.*

*Amen.*

*Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us...*

*St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, pray for us...*

*St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us...*

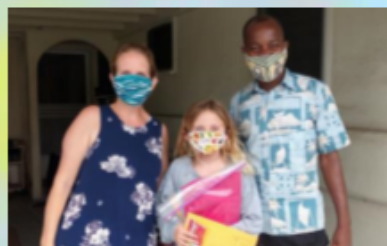
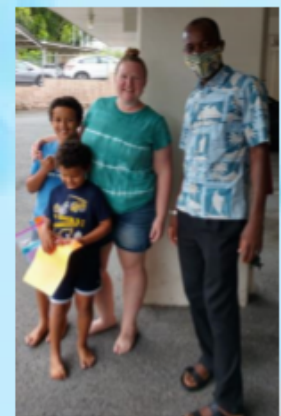
*St. John Vianney, pray for us...*



Banner making has been a long-standing tradition at St. John Vianney Parish for our children preparing to receive their sacraments. Banners were made during a spring retreat where families would learn more about the sacraments of initiation, practice receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, and fellowship with other families. At their First Eucharist/Confirmation Mass, the banners would adorn the end of the pews for all to see.

This year, the shelter at home order changed our plans and we were required to cancel the anticipated spring retreat. However, we did not want to cancel this tradition! But how would we get all the materials – banners, felt, ribbons, glue – to all the candidates? Father Peter decided that a “personal touch” would be the best way to make sure everyone has a chance to make their banners.

Recognizing that parents are the primary educators of their children, the Religious Education Department prepared information on the symbols of the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist so that the parents would be able to work with their children at home on this tradition. Large bags filled with everything needed to make the banners were hand delivered by Father Peter to all of the children. It offered not only a chance to let the children know that we are thinking about them, but also for the children and their families to see Father Peter and spend a few minutes talking with their pastor. Although smiles were hard to see behind the masks, it was a great opportunity to share Aloha during this time.



Mahalo to all the families who welcomed us to your homes! Here are a few pictures from our visits.