



St. Ann Church and School

Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

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January 22, 2021

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

We have news for you about the future of our school. Due to consistently declining enrollment over the last eleven years and, with that, increasing costs, Fr. Rich McNally, Pastor of St. Ann Parish, has made the decision that St. Ann School will close its doors at the end of this school year on June 4, 2021.

This decision was not made lightly but only after much discussion and consideration. The decision process involved the Parish Finance Council, the School Advisory Board, the School Administration as well as the office of Hawaii Catholic Schools. The decision has been referred to Bishop Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu, who has confirmed it.

We are so thankful for your belief in Catholic education and your support of our school over the years. Our administration and faculty have been outstanding, especially meeting the challenges presented by the COVID crisis. Our School Board has never given up hoping and trying to carry on. Their dedication has been incredible.

Fr. Rich did not arrive at this conclusion hastily. We discussed this possibility for several years and reviewed numerous options. However, the challenge of providing a quality education, employing a qualified staff and paying just wages, steadily decreasing enrollment, especially given the demographics of the Kaneohe area, and the financial reality forced us to conclude that our school would not be able to thrive in service to our students and families.

Unfortunately, for the past decade Catholic schools across the nation have experienced a dramatic decrease in enrollment and St. Ann School is no different. Despite the grand efforts and good will from school administration, staff and faculty, the school board, supportive parishioners and the many volunteers that worked in marketing and fundraising for the school, the schools' financial stability remains in jeopardy. The funds raised in the Appeal Letter Campaign were just not enough to allow St. Ann School to financially remain in business. To date the campaign has raised \$73,899.00 while our operational deficit for next year would be around \$400,000. We are so grateful to all who have made donations but it is a far cry from the amount of funds needed to survive and cover expenses with low enrollment.

St. Ann School has made a significant impact in the community of Kaneohe since its opening in 1841, thanks to the loyalty and dedication of Fr. Marcial Jan ss.cc., the McCabe 'ohana, the Maryknoll Sisters, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Pastors, Administrators and the countless number of faculty, staff and volunteers. We can't forget the rich history of the school and the thousands of children who have passed through its doors. Each student has a unique story to share about their time here at St. Ann School and just how grateful they are for the education, life skills and love they've received.

We highly encourage you to continue your child's education in a Catholic school. There are two Catholic schools in Kailua and several Catholic schools in Honolulu. St. Ann School will gather information in order to facilitate an easy transition of students and teachers into other Catholic Schools. We will keep you informed by email. Also, the Hawaii Catholic Schools Department will work with administration and faculty to assist them in securing employment in other Catholic schools. We want to make sure everyone is taken care of. Administration and staff will remain on campus until June 30, 2021 to oversee final closure.

Again, this decision was not made lightly and we write this with heavy hearts. St. Ann School has a long tradition and presence in this community and we are sad to have to make this announcement. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Mandy Thronas-Brown at 808-247-3092 ext. 108 or by email: mbrown@saintannahawaii.org. May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy during these most challenging times.

May the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary bless you,



Mrs. Mandy Thronas-Brown
Principal



Fr. Richard McNally, ss.cc.
Pastor