



Uhane na Kea'au

December 2011

Christmas Concert. Quick! Name things associated with Christmas! No!! Not Santa Clause and “Jingle Bells” and mindless shopping. Those have all become part of the American tradition, but they are superficial, ignoring the deeper meaning of the holiday. To help us remember the coming of the Christ Child, Father Gordon Combs began the evening with an invocation, followed by music, food and --yes--shopping. The Kamehameha Alumni Glee Club and Aaron Mahi, George Kuo and Martin Pahinui headlined the entertainment with a variety of sacred and traditional Christmas music. Debbie Nahalu’s young Polynesian troupe danced and taught some moves to selected audience members. Traditional Hawaiian foods and holiday treats were prepared by our loyal volunteers, including Jill Mauck, Uncle Leonard Nahalu, Marina Talisayan and Dorothy and Richard Yamashige. Sister Pat’s Tau Shop moved outside, offering a variety of hand-made and unusual gifts.

Organizing this undertaking following so soon after Thanksgiving and the Advent Retreat would not have been possible without the assistance of many, many volunteers. Special thanks go to Hoo Mau O Ke Ola for transforming the Longhouse into a theater, to Dr. Patty for help with the plants decorating the stage and to Col. Don Arakaki and Albert Silva for promoting the occasion.

Hospitality. Early in the month, Kamehameha Schools came out to trim our overgrown keawe; just before Thanksgiving, we were grateful to them for the banana stumps used in the Thanksgiving imu. In the middle of the month, members of Alpha Delta Kappa, a service sorority of retired educators, held a conference in the Kramer Center, toured our grounds and enjoyed lunch. Alpha Delta Kappa has been a generous benefactor and once again they provided us with materials for children living along the beach and in the bushes. Sacred Heart staff also held a meeting at OLK. In December we look forward to welcoming a group from St. Elizabeth Parish and to hosting the confirmation retreat for Sacred Heart.



Projects. In addition to the usual preparations for Thanksgiving, the imu pavilion was built; it proved its utility for loading and unloading 90 turkeys and the 300-lb. pig. Somehow there was still time in November to accomplish some other special projects. These included building a gazebo in the back yard of the convent and constructing a larger stage, to be used for the Christmas concert and other large events.

God’s Blessings. It’s a lways a pleasure to see Father Lane, who again delivered a van-load of non-perishable food generously donated by the St. Augustine parish.

Birthdays. Happy birthday, December 24, to our loyal supporter Willa Papandrew, and to our faithful co-manager of Ha’aiwi, table decorator and dessert maker extraordinaire, Joyce Arakaki, December 27.



Christ’s Healing Ministry. As part of the St. Francis Healthcare System, Our Lady of Kea’au is committed in many ways to creating healthy communities in the Spirit of Christ’s Healing Ministry. We provide hotmeals, clothing and household items to the homeless of our area on a weekly basis, approaching each person with *aloha*.

But that’s only a beginning. We care for the *aina* by trying to make things grow, especially with the help of Esau. From time to time we’ve sponsored efforts to remove the rubbish that collects along the road. We make our peaceful facilities available to a variety of appropriate community groups.

Perhaps most important, we care for each other in a nurturing environment. We are always mindful of St. Francis’ admonition in *The Earlier Rule*, “Let each one confidently make known his need to another that the other might discover what is needed and minister to him. Let each one love and care for his brother as a mother loves and cares for her son in those matters in which God has given him the grace.” We try to put these words into action, in all our dealings with each other, whether at Our Lady or elsewhere. If you would like to join our ohana and help with any of our various activities, serving the poor directly and indirectly and helping one another, please speak with Sister Beatrice. She will be happy to discuss the different opportunities available at Our Lady of Kea’au.



Some 2011 Highlights

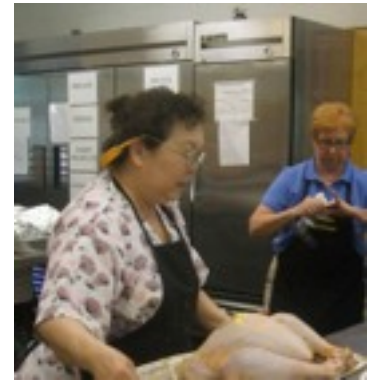
Carol Curry was selected to represent OLK at the Mayor's Office Volunteer of the Year ceremony.



Once again the Waianae Junior ROTC held their Adventure Challenge at OLK. They appreciated the grounds and our food!



Sister Claudia Wong added her enthusiasm and skills to our community for many months.



Father Lim, Sister Pat Schofield and Franciscan Associates joined us on many occasions.

Perhaps mindful of St. Francis' prayer, "it is in giving that we receive," a beach resident gave the Yamashiges a puppy.



Thanksgiving was another roaring success!

Leonard Nahalu and Dr. Patty Tavares helped with preparations for the Christmas Concert.

**Our Lady of Kea'au is a subsidiary of St. Francis Healthcare System.
Sister Beatrice Tom, OSF, Chief Administrator
Sister Patricia Rapozo, OSF, Assistant Administrator**



This newsletter is a volunteer effort to keep friends of Our Lady of Kea'au aware of the many things happening in our ministry and at our facility. Although we try to be as accurate as possible, this is not an official publication of the St. Francis Healthcare System.

~Thanks to Lynn Hall and Yuriko Takeda for their on-going production assistance and help in other areas.