



# Our Lady of Kea'au

November 2010

**November Retreat.** Patty Martin, Director of Volunteer Services for the St. Francis Healthcare System, will discuss the role of Our Lady of Kea'au within the larger system and how our volunteers enhance the work of OLK. Having helped with a variety of projects, including preparing and delivering meals on Wednesdays, organizing items in St. Joseph for distribution, assisting with cooking and cleaning up at the Feast of St. Francis and decorating the conference room for Christmas Mass, Patty has a wide and deep understanding of the tremendous range of activities that go on at OLK and the importance of volunteers for making all that happen.

**Thanksgiving Plans.** We learn from experience! Every year, volunteers on Wednesdays take a census of sorts, asking those who receive meals if they'll be joining us for the Thanksgiving feast and festivities. And every year our census is wildly inaccurate. So this year, in addition to a colorful invitation, we're asking people to fill out a form and giving a receipt to be used for claiming the traditional food bags. Of course no one will be turned away from the noon meal and entertainment even if they don't have the stub. As always, donations of turkeys, desserts and money are greatly appreciated.

Pictured to the left, last year Butch Fellesz, Sister William Marie and a JROTC volunteer used the outdoor kitchen to prepare the imu-cooked turkeys for serving upstairs.



**Advent Retreat.** In an ironic twist of the calendar, Advent begins right after Thanksgiving and hence the Advent Retreat, planned as a time of relaxation and spiritual rejuvenation for the OLK family, begins the day after Thanksgiving. The festive weekend begins Friday with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Father Rey Lim will direct the retreat and Father Lane Akiona, a Sacred Heart priest, will tell us more on Saturday about Father Damien. There will also be a variety of spa activities on Saturday. The time of renewal will conclude with Mass on Sunday followed by brunch.

**Hospitality.** October was a busy month at OLK. In addition to groups using the swimming pool (see the following item), we hosted a group from the State Department of Human Services. A group from St. Theresa Parish in Kalihi came to

pray the Rosary in our peaceful setting. The St. Elizabeth Youth Retreat enjoyed a happy time at OLK.

**Birthdays.** Happy birthday, November 21, to Kay Kramer!



**Community Service.** Although mostly known for our outreach to the homeless community, Our Lady of Kea'au reaches out to the broader Waianae community in several ways. One quiet way is offering the use of our grounds and swimming pool to appropriate groups. Hard to believe, there are no public pools along the Waianae Coast. When groups such as Kamaili Academy, PALS, Kamehameha Schools and JROTC make good use of our facility, we demonstrate our commitment to the larger community.

**Grotto Update.** The Sacred Heart grotto grows more beautiful, more meaningful every week. On October 4, at the Feast of St. Francis, Father Rey blessed the area. Recent additions include small statues of Blessed Mother Marianne and St. Damien of Molokai. The area dedicated to Faith Tom has been enhanced to reflect her love of cats. Please take a moment to meditate or offer a quiet prayer and to

admire the artistic vision and hard work of so many people.

**A First Time for Everything.** The very nature of the mission of Our Lady of Kea'au makes it imperative to "expect the unexpected," as the bumper sticker so popular a few years ago proclaimed. Even so, the response was noteworthy when Norman Isomura was stranded on the premises. He literally was stuck in a rut--what to do? Call Sister Beatrice Tom for a tow, of course! As Eddie related the story, Sister Beatrice admitted that towing another vehicle was something she'd never done before. Eddie patiently explained about smooth, gradual starts and the importance of letting the driver of the following vehicle know when stops are anticipated. All went well, Norman and the vehicle were none the worse for the mishap and Sister Beatrice reportedly had a grand time (but is not looking to repeat the experience). As Eddie paraphrased Frank DeLima, a friend of Our Lady of Kea'au, "Call 22-22-Tow and Sister Beatrice Tow will be there. That's Tutu Tutu Tow."



**Artifacts.** Visiting Our Lady of Kea'au is certainly a spiritual experience, but it also has aspects of a trip to an art museum, a nature preserve, and a cultural center. For example, there is the large koa calabash, usually found in the Kramer conference room. It's not just on display--it's actually used for a variety of purposes at events. Recently it was used at the Blessing of Animals, but what is its history? A chat with Kay Kramer answered that question. It was a gift from Queen Emma to Kay's grandmother. The straightforward answer led to a wide-ranging discussion of the legendary Hawaiian monarchy. Kay's grandmother was brought up with Kalakaua and was very close to Queen Kapi'olani. They often went to each other's homes for tea. Although Queen Emma and Queen Kapi'olani were rivals, Kay's grandmother (no doubt gracious like Kay) managed to be friends with both women. Based on that friendship, Queen Emma gave the calabash to Kay's grandmother and eventually, based on her long friendship with many Franciscan sisters, Kay donated it to Sister Beatrice for Our Lady of Kea'au.

**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.*