

**Restoring the Original Order of the Sacraments**

*Robert Noguchi, Principal of Religious Education*

You may have heard the buzz about the Sacrament of Confirmation moving to second grade here in the Diocese of Honolulu. The change is actually a move to restore the proper, or original, order of the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and then First Holy Communion. As it stands now, children are typically baptized as infants, receive First Holy Communion in the second grade, and then are confirmed as teens (most often as high school sophomores). In the near future, both Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be received beginning in the second grade. St. Ann’s will move to this “restored order” of the sacraments beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year.

This change naturally raises a lot of questions, especially for parents with children who may be affected by this transition. In preparation for restoring the proper order of the sacraments here at St. Ann Church and Model Schools, we will be including supplemental information with our newsletters over the next few months. This month we are including Bishop Larry Silva’s letter (attached) introducing the topic of restoring the original order of the sacraments of initiation here in the diocese. You may also visit the diocesan website for more information at [www.catholichawaii.org](http://www.catholichawaii.org) and clicking on “Original Order of the Sacraments”, located at the bottom of the homepage. Please feel free to call the Religious Education Office should you have any questions or concerns. May you and your loved ones have a blessed and joyous New Year!



**Restoring the Original Order of the Sacraments (Part II)**

*Robert Noguchi, Principal of Religious Education*

Aloha and Happy 2016! This month we continue our newsletter series regarding the restoration of the Original Order of the Sacraments in the diocese and here at St. Ann’s. Last month’s newsletter featured an introductory letter from Bishop Larry Silva regarding the changes. This month we are including an attachment with common questions and answers concerning restoring the original order of the sacraments. Please see the attachment to this newsletter for much important information. This document will answer many of the questions you may have, but please feel free to contact us here at the RE Office if you have any further questions or concerns. May you and your loved ones have a blessed and joyous New Year!



**Restoring the Original Order of the Sacraments (Part III)**

*Robert Noguchi, Principal of Religious Education*

This month we conclude our newsletter series regarding the restoration of the Original Order of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (in that order). Hopefully, many of your questions were answered in last month’s Q&A feature. This month we’ll focus on how the changes will impact our students and families here in the St. Ann Religious Education/Youth Ministry program.

St. Ann’s will transition to this “original order” of the sacraments beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year. In keeping with the current policy in the Diocese of Honolulu, preparation for the reception of 1st Eucharist and Confirmation will remain a two-year process. Preparation of students for Confirmation will take place in their normal RE/YM grade level classes. Students entering Kindergarten through Confirmation I (“CI”) in the 2017-2018 year will begin their first year of preparation to receive Confirmation. In the following school year, 2018-2019, those in 2nd grade (and others who have not received 1st Eucharist) will complete preparation for 1st Reconciliation, Confirmation, and 1st Eucharist. For all students in grades 3 through Confirmation II (“CII”) who have already received 1st Eucharist but are not confirmed, preparation will take place for Confirmation. This preparation is to supplement the usual catechesis for their grade. Once preparation is complete, students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019. Students in 2nd grade in the 2018-2019 academic year (and others as needed) will also receive their 1st Eucharist at this same Mass celebration. Once this “wave” of students have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Ann’s Religious Education will continue to prepare students in 2nd grade (Sacrament Prep II) for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist as is currently the practice, but with the addition of preparation for Confirmation. Students in all other grades, up to Grade 8, will continue their spiritual formation in their normal religious education grade level classes.

In the 2019-2020 school year, Confirmation I and II will no longer be offered as classes in our RE/YM program as students in this group will have already received the sacrament of Confirmation. To accommodate students in the high school age range, St. Ann’s will offer Comprehensive Youth Ministry to 9th thru 12th graders. Comprehensive Youth Ministry (CYM) will include social and service opportunities for our youth, including a religious education curriculum designed particularly for their age group. Implementation of CYM will officially be completed in the 2017-2018 school year.

For more information on CYM and the restoration of the Original Order of the Sacraments of Initiation here in the diocese, please visit the diocesan website at [www.catholichawaii.org](http://www.catholichawaii.org) and click on “Original Order of the Sacraments”, located at the bottom of the homepage. You may also view the newly released diocesan video on the topic by clicking on the attachment provided with this email.

This is truly a blessed time in the history of the Catholic Church here in Hawaii as so many more of our youth will be able to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are excited to be making this journey of faith together with your family, as we continue to *Build One Body in Christ.* Thank you for your continued support of the Religious Education program and for your commitment to the spiritual formation of our youth. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the Religious Education Office at 247-3092, ext. 105. May you and your loved ones have a blessed Lenten season!