

# He Ana Iki

Interim #5  
Spring 2016

## The First CSJ Neighborhood in Hawai`i

It was the dream of Father Medaille that his “Little Design” would be composed of small groups of sisters living not in a cloister but in the neighborhoods.

When the first Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Honolulu on August 24, 1938 they were escorted to a new two story house (built just for them in only three weeks time) on the grounds of St. Theresa Parish in the Kalihi-Palama neighborhood of O`ahu.



Just off the boat with almost 100 lei!  
Arrival at the new convent  
August 24, 1938

There they assumed responsibility for the school and for “catechism classes” for Catholic students of the parish not in the school. The Sisters walked the neighborhood, going door to door to introduce themselves and discover children not receiving catechetical instruction. Sr. James Therese Joseph recalls going with one of the sisters on these visits when another sister was not available as a companion.

Prior to western contact, the Kalihi –Palama area was an ahupua`a, a self sustaining Hawaiian region reaching from the mountains to the ocean and ruled by a Ali`i (Chief).



Website for Image: [www.unrealhawaii.com](http://www.unrealhawaii.com)

Ahupua`a provided access to the resources of the forested mountains, streams, arable land (aina) and the ocean

In the early days of CSJ presence in this neighborhood the population was mostly Hawaiian, Chinese and some Japanese who worked as laborers, some at Pearl Harbor, and/or small business owners. Sister Adele Marie Lemon, in her book of letters To You from Hawai`i writes about the first day of school in 1938, “*Imagine the anguish to trying to look intelligent when such names as Yamanichi, Lukehewa, Hookiekie, and Kawanakoa were rattled of glib tongues.*”

Today the neighborhood is an ethnic mix of younger, mostly poorly educated individuals: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Filipinos along with native Hawaiians. The last two decades have seen an increase in south-pacific islanders (Samoan, Tongan and

Micronesian). Almost half of the residents were born in another country. Approximately 1/3 of the current households have an annual income less than \$25,000 and there is also a high rate of unemployment.



Typical neighborhood street scene

The Liliha Bakery, one of the neighborhood landmarks, was built in 1950 and continues to serve their delicious pastries, including the ever popular coco puffs. If you stay overnight with the Sisters at St. Theresa you are likely to find a plate of freshly baked pastries set out for breakfast – Sr. Ann Faber Chang is known to make early morning trips to Liliha Bakery when there are visitors in the house!



Website for Image: archives.starbulletin.com

There is still a CSJ presence in this “first neighborhood.” Sr. John Joseph Gilligan is the principal at St. Theresa School where she encourages students and staff to reach out to the Dear Neighbor.



Sr. John Joseph Gilligan with students at St. Theresa School

Sr. Ann Faber Chang continues activities with the Seniors group, “Forever Young,” started many years ago by Sr. Kathleen Marie Shields. Their activities include talks, treats, bingo, and short excursions to interesting places in the area. She is also active in a local Chinese Catholic Club and in her “spare time” takes the Sisters at Carondelet on weekly outings. Sr. Marcelina Felipe volunteers in the parish office, moderates a small prayer group, and sings in the parish choir.

The Sisters are recognized by the people wherever they go!



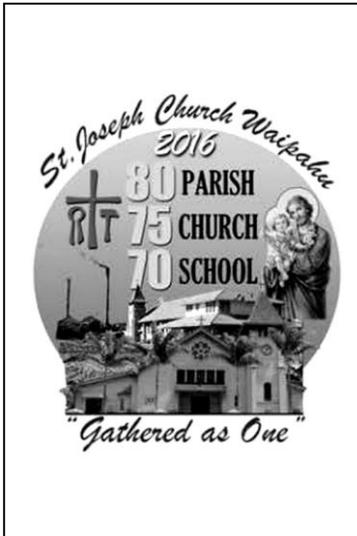
Sr. Ann Faber Chang



Sr. Marcelina Felipe

## Waipahu Celebration

By Francine Costello, CSJ



The Waipahu Catholic `Ohana grandly celebrated three Anniversaries on March 19, 2016: the Founding of St. Joseph Parish (80th), Dedication of the Church (75th) and Opening of the School (70th).

The Liturgical Celebration reflected the many cultures of the Parish `Ohana and was followed by a lunch menu of local favorites. Medleys of Polynesian songs, dances, honorable commendations by public officials, and words of gratitude were woven into the celebration ritual.



Photo by Sr. Francine Costello

Flat Fontbonne came with Sr. Patty Chang to the Mass and Paina!

Among those present at the celebration were several CSJs, some of them former teachers at St. Joseph's School: Srs. Ann Faber Chang, Sarah Bernard Talite, and Anita Marie Rosco.



Photo by Sr. Francine Costello

Ready for the feast are Srs. Rosita Aranita, Tomasa Marcos, Patty Chang (standing), Anita Marie Rosco, and Sarah Bernard Talite

From the school's beginning in 1946 our Sisters were dedicated to the children, youth and families of the Parish. It was in 2003 that we left the school which then was under the direction of a laywoman principal.

A number of our sisters entered the community from this parish and they continue to be a significant CSJ presence – Srs. Tomasa Marcos, Anita Marie Rosco, Rosita Aranita, and Margaret Leonard Perreira in the Diocese of Honolulu – Sr. Teresa Ann Coronas in the Los Angeles retirement community – Sr. Marie Gertrude Roldan as a Tribunal Judge in the Diocese of San Jose – and Sr. Nancy Corcoran in St. Louis.

The Priests, Deacons, Lay Ministers and Parishioners continue to be sources of blessing for us through their prayer, support and friendship. We are happy to have been able to celebrate these Anniversaries with them.

## Earth Day 2016: Trees for the Earth

“There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions . . . showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings.” (Laudato Si’ 211)

Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’ calls us to protect the Earth, our common home. Earth Day is an opportunity to respond to the pope’s call. This year’s special Earth Day theme is “Trees for the Earth.”



Website for Photo: [www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com)

Israel’s President Peres and Pope Francis plant an olive tree, a sign of peace

### Why trees?

- Trees support life in us and in countless other creatures.
- Trees help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in their bodies.

- Trees prevent soil erosion, clean our water, and add grace and beauty to our homes and communities.
- Trees help communities achieve long-term economic and environmental sustainability, especially in the poorest communities around the world.

### Everyone Can Plant a Tree & Help Fight Climate Change

Anyone can plant trees. Planting a tree will help reduce carbon dioxide, a main contributor to climate change. Planting a tree at your home or parish or supporting others’ tree-planting efforts makes a difference. For more information on how to care for God’s Creation go to: [www. CatholicClimateCovenant.org](http://www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

### Hawaiian Koa Trees

Since the arrival of humans in the Hawaiian Islands, over half of the native forests have been lost. The dominant forest species in the 2000 to 6000 foot elevation was the Acacia Koa. There is only 10% of this forest type that is still intact in Hawaii and it is essential habitat for many of the State’s native birds and insects. Left on its current course, Koa will meet the same fate as the Hawaiian Sandalwood did in the 1800’s.

You can help restore the Koa forest on the Big Island of Hawai`i through the Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Project. Go to the website [www.legacytrees.org](http://www.legacytrees.org) where you will find information about the koa and sandalwood forests. You can download order forms to have a tree planted in your own name or as a gift for another person or as a commemoration of an event. When you order a tree to be planted you are given its gps coordinates and you can see it on Google Earth!

You can use Google or other web browsers to find out what native plants grow well in your neighborhood. Sometimes native plant nurseries give plants away free or only charge a minimal amount for young plants.

Why not plant a native tree for Earth Day 2016?