

**Opening Remarks for the ROL New Parish Center Groundbreaking
by Fr. William Kunisch
April 22, 2018**

Good morning, everyone! Welcome to the Groundbreaking Ceremony for our new parish center! It is a blessing to have all of you here with us on this beautiful day. [Beautiful meaning it's not raining...right now!]

Joining us in our celebration this morning, we are pleased to have with us some very special guests: Msgr. Gary Secor, our Vicar General, who is representing Bishop Silva today and will be presiding over our blessing; Councilman Brandon Elefante, from our Honolulu City Council, representing our district, District 8; Mr. David Pfeifer, of Domus Studio in San Diego, our architect; Ms. Guia Lasquete, of Rider Levett Bucknall, our project manager; Mr. Reginald Coballes and Mr. Shane Clark, representing Nan, Inc., our General Contractor; Mrs. Lisa Sakamoto, our Diocesan Finance Officer; Mrs. Marlene DeCosta, our Diocesan Land Asset Manager; Mr. Vince Vernay our Diocesan Facilities Manager; Mr. Garry Dixon, our Vicariate representative to the Diocesan Building Commission; and Josh Kapika, for offering a beautiful oli to begin our celebration.

I also want to introduce the members of our Senior Leadership Team: Deacon Joe Ancheta, Deacon Gary Streff, Roana Alexander, Vince Abramo, Zachary Ramones, and Darryl Salvador.

Our Pastoral Council members are: Sr. Cecilia Fabular, OP; Jeff Caballes, Norma Dela Cruz, Malcom Zara, Maggie Sabater, and Miggy Sabater.

I also want to recognize the members of our parish Finance Council: Marvin Uehara, our Chairperson, Mary Bretschneider, Rob Dunn, Ofelia Mangosing, Andy Landgraf, Janet Jakahi and Jeff Fontanilla, our bookkeeper.

And also I want to acknowledge the members of our parish Planning & Building Committee who really spent a lot of time and energy the last few years developing a beautiful plan for our parish center: Marvin Uehara, Chairperson, Mary Bretschneider, Mabini Zuniga, Jim Carberry, Roana Alexander, LeRoy Sieffert, and until very recently Makana Aiona.

And of course, we are grateful to Roana Alexander, for heading up our Capital Campaign, and all of our members, benefactors, and friends who have supported this project so generously through our campaign, *Grace Upon Grace*, and for years before that through our Building Fund.

Over 20 years ago, when the church was built, it was the dream of our founders to also have a parish center to provide meeting space for different ministries, office space, and a larger gathering space for special events. The purpose of the parish center is really to provide additional space for "the Church to be the Church."

While the Eucharist is the source and summit of our life together, we are also “church” when we come together as believers outside of Mass to study God’s Word, share our faith, listen to, pray with, and care for one another, organize our outreach to those in need, and when we accompany others at different moments of life’s journey. Our parish center will be a resource for healing and a refuge of peace, for our whole community, Catholic and non-Catholic, alike.

But it is important to remember that our ministry cannot be confined to this new building any more than it can be confined to a church building. It’s better to think of our new parish center as a staging area – a place to develop, train, and equip the disciples of Jesus to go out. Because our mission is still “out there”, in the community, to people who have yet to know Christ, to those who feel lost, all alone, and without hope.

Even though we will be adding a few more walls to our campus, our mission will remain unchanged: to be a Church without walls for a Love without limits.

So with praise and thanksgiving to God and with sincere gratitude for all who have worked so hard to bring us to this moment, let us recommit ourselves to this great project that will serve our parish and our community for years to come.

Thank you.