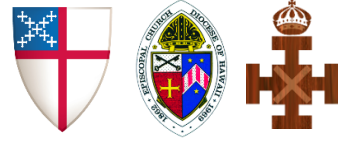


From the Bishop

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i



A Message from the Bishop to the Holy Innocents' 'Ohana

August 18, 2023

My dear Siblings in Christ,

I know the Holy Innocents' 'Ohana is feeling fractured and overwhelming grief. The fire has taken your beloved Sanctuary and Lahaina. Many of you have lost your homes, schools and places of work. Our siblings in Christ are living in shelters, hotels, and homes of friends and family. More tragically, family members and friends have died, and others fates are still unknown.

It is a time for tears and grief. It is time for prayers and care for one another.

I pray that the Holy Innocents' 'Ohana can stay together – online and through physical gatherings throughout Maui. Please keep in touch with one another: call, email, send notes. The Holy Innocents' Church mailing address has been changed to: Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, c/o Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 2140 Main Street, Wailuku, HI 96793.

Fr. Bruce will be with you as Vicar through September 30, 2023. The other Maui clergy have agreed to be available for pastoral care and to offer hospitality whenever needed. I hope to have a West Maui Missioner (a Diocesan paid staff person) on island to care for the Holy Innocents' congregation and coordinate recovery efforts as soon as possible. Until then, Canon Sandy Graham will spend a couple of days each week on Maui.

I have met with Fr. Bruce and Donna. As the Vicar (until the end of September) and Bishop's Warden (ongoing), they are still the key contacts for the congregation. Please keep in touch with them.

Emergency financial assistance is available for members and families of Holy Innocents. You can contact Fr. Bruce, Donna or Canon Sandy (Email: acgraham@episcopalhawaii.org or Cell: 3363-799-808-1), please let them know if you need assistance.

In my study, I reread Psalm 34 this morning and I was struck by verses 17-20:

When the righteous cry out, the Lord listens;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
he saves those whose spirits are crushed.
The righteous have many problems,
but the Lord delivers them from every one.
He protects all their bones;
not even one will be broken.

This is the promise that I clung to this morning: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he saves those whose spirits are crushed.”

We all will need the love of God and one another as we share a special spirit of aloha in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead giving time for the earth and God’s people to heal. We need to support one another as members of God’s ‘Ohana – as Holy Innocents’ Church and the Diocese of Hawai‘i.

Yours in the love of Christ Jesus,

Bishop Bob

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop Diocesan
The Episcopal Church in Hawai‘i