

JULY

When the praises go up, the power comes down!

Shanita Akana

To God My Soul Sings



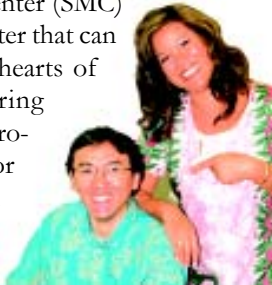
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Statement of Purpose

I am on a mission to inspire other Catholic artists, young and old, to share their God-given talent by means of song and prayer; to especially share the secret that the Master Musician is God himself, and that we are his instruments. I would like to offer families the opportunity to restore healthy relationships between parents and children. (If a mother is hurting for her child who has gone astray, I hope the resources offered here in this newsletter can aid in bringing the Good News to her son or daughter.) I would like to empower the youth to stay close to Jesus, receive Holy Communion, implore the Blessed Mother's help, and plug in regularly with a community of believers who can pray with you and for you. And sing, sing, sing! Because when the praises go up, the power comes down!

Opening Letter

When asked to begin a monthly newsletter, I imagined I would be summarizing monthly happenings. After an in-depth perspective, I thank God for letting me see the bigger picture. I feel blessed to be a part of the evangelizing team of St. Michael Center (SMC) in developing a newsletter that can inspire and touch the hearts of God's people, and bring back the lost and the broken. I have a passion for God and music and SMC has a passion to fill people's faith with Godly content regularly and steadily by means of newsletters, postcards, etc. I thank God for allowing me to be a part of this high level of dedication, service and generosity. Thomas Pereira reminded me I must give to others and help fill their faith, allowing them the privilege to receive and experience God's love and grace. The best way I can help fill their faith is through music, prayer and inspirational sharing. I look forward to hearing from you, the faithful. Aloha and God bless!



Shanita with Thomas Pereira

Early on, Thomas asked me to brainstorm a title for this newsletter. In the end, *To God My Soul Sings* won out.

Prayer of the Month



Lord Jesus You are my soul desire. Help me to fight off unnecessary distractions that compete for my time and attention. Live in me and breathe Your Holy Spirit into my total being. I want to live only for You and live Your Will for my life. Above all, help me to have interior peace. I love You Jesus and want to live with You forever. This I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

About My Ministries

It's all about God. It's all about prayer. It's about music. It's about bringing comfort, healing, inspiration and joy to the human heart. I am a freelance Catholic Christian artist. I have found that after 20 years of active singing and praying, nothing gives me greater satisfaction than the healing power of prayer set to music. Everywhere I go, I am humbled to witness hearts transformed, moved, touched, renewed, uplifted and restored. My life's purpose is to give witness to God's goodness through delivery of song and personal testimony, helping to mobilize this generation of Catholics to be proactive in their prayer life with the aid of song. I love singing for God with a passion, sharing my songs and hoping for the conversion of hearts. In the end, God does the changing.

Musician's Corner— Soane Uiagalelei

This month's feature showcases a man whose giftedness inspired me to come back to God. In 1994, I sat in church and watched Soane and the youth choir pound out a love song to Jesus. The words to the song *More Precious Than Silver* changed the course of my life! Recently, I again witnessed Soane leading the congregation with beautiful music at the Canonization Mass for Padre Pio. Soane remains an active minister directing the Newman Center campus ministry program, facilitating spirituality retreats and conducting a choir of talented musicians and singers. He and his lovely wife Margaret, share their love with the Catholic youth of Hawaii.



Youth Feature— Erin Marie Pomai Dayanan



Erin Marie Pomai Dayanan recently graduated from Sacred Hearts Academy and will soon be off to Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. Though Pomai

has been regularly attending the OLPH 5 p.m. Sunday Mass with her mom, this 17-year-old never really got involved in the youth program, until the very end when we saluted the seniors at the Baccalaureate Mass. She came to the front of the church to be among her peers as the congregation sang *Give Thanks* in their honor. God bless the class of 2002!

Song of the Month—*Testify to Love*

Here's a clip from *Testify to Love*, as recorded by Avalon. But I like Wynona Judd's rendition better. My dear friend Mason Matsuda let me listen to the CD recording from the television series *Touched by an Angel*. Today, it's one of my favorite songs and I like to share it with people.

"For as long as I shall live, I will testify to love. I'll be a witness in the silences when words are not enough. With every breath I take, I will give thanks to God above. For as long as I shall live I will testify to love. ...From the mountains to the valleys, from the rivers to the sea, every hand that reaches out, every hand that reaches out to offer peace. Every word in every story, every step to kingdom come, every hope in every heart, will speak what love has done"

It's a contemporary piece written in 4/4 time and has a pulsating rhythmic flair starting off with a solo guitar sound.

July 6: St. Maria Goretti

She died at 11 years of age, and is the youngest saint in the Church. Young as she was, she made a choice, a choice based on her faith. The Church holds up to the world the life, death and the faith of Maria Goretti ... the little girl who loved God and hated sin.

Alessandro, her killer, went to prison and was never sorry for what he did until one night, when he saw Maria in a dream. She was handing him, one by one, white lilies from her apron. The lilies looked like they had little lights glowing in them. Maria gave him exactly 14 flowers, the same number of times he stabbed her. From then on, he completely changed. He went to apologize to Maria's mother, and even through her pain, she forgave Alessandro because her daughter had forgiven him too. Before he died, he wrote a letter telling people not to read bad magazines and look at bad pictures or movies. Because they affect you without you even knowing it.

A comprehensive website about St. Maria Goretti, can be found at www.mariagoretti.org.

THE NY TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1950

Mother Witnesses Canonizing of Girl

Presence at Rites Elevating Maria Goretti to a Saint Makes Church History

By the Associated Press

ROME, June 24 (AP) - Maria Goretti, who died at 11 years of age defending her virtue, was raised to the sainthood today before a huge crowd of the Roman Catholic faithful, including her mother. The newest saint, already the "Martyr of Purity," was hailed by Pope Pius XII as an exemplar for Catholic youth over the World. The slayer, Alessandro Serenelli, served twenty-seven years in prison. Now, he remains in seclusion as handyman and pig-tender at a Capuchin monastery, haunted by visions of his victim. She forgave him while dying from fourteen stab wounds.



THE NY TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 26, 1950

'Teen-age Saint' Hailed in Sermon

Italian Child Couldn't Write but Got Into Heaven, Says St. Patrick's Preacher

Maria Goretti, who "couldn't read or write but knew enough theology to get into heaven" was hailed yesterday at solemn mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral as "the teen-age saint of this age." Cardinal Spellman presided in the sanctuary as the Rev. Edwin B. Broderick of the cathedral staff said in his sermon that the conduct of the 11-year-old Italian girl constituted a "clarion call to the old fashioned home where 'old fashioned purity' was taught."

"It is as the Saint of the Christian home that Maria Goretti is presented to us today," said Father Broderick. "Hers is a peaceful crusade to restore the constant Catholic teaching that the family is a divinely founded natural society, the basic social unit, prior in nature and existence to any state or nation."

July 16: History of the Sacred Scapular

Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel (the Madonna of the Scapular) goes back all the way to the 8th century B. C. It was then that the great prophet Elias ascended the holy mountain of Carmel in Palestine, and began there a long tradition of contemplative life and prayer. It is amazing to realize that centuries before Christ was Born, Holy Elias and his followers had mystically dedicated themselves to



God's Mother-to-come, Mary, Queen of Mount Carmel. Nearly three thousand years later, that tradition of prayer, contemplation, and devotion to Mary continues to live and prevail in the Catholic Church.

On the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, the spiritual descendants of Elias and his followers came down from Mount Carmel fittingly, they were the first that day to accept the message of Christianity and to be baptized by the Apostles. When, at last, they were presented to Our Lady, and heard her message, they were overcome with a sense of majesty and sanctity which they never forgot. Returning to their mountain, they erected the first chapel ever built in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From that time, devotion to God's Mother was handed down by the hermits on Mount Carmel as a treasured spiritual legacy.

Spirituality Corner—Featuring St. Pio

He was born Francesco Forgione on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy, to a peasant family. At the age of 15 he entered the Capuchin Franciscan Friars, and was ordained to the Friary in San Giovanni Rotondo in central Italy, where he lived for the rest of his life. He received the stigmata on September 20, 1918, and for the next 50 years, his life was marked by long hours of prayer, sacrifice and strict austerity. He had a deep union with God, a burning love for the Holy Eucharist and a fervent devotion to Our Blessed Mother. He died on September 23, 1968. On June 16, 2002, he was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II. His story brings victory to the life of the Catholic Church, a church I am proud to call home.



Prayer Requests...

- For the souls on Eva Dela Pina and Frank Souza
- For the marriage union of Billy & Marilyn Marcos, Ron & Candy Hill, and Clifford & Irene Villareal
- For Fr. Lio Faletoi's 10th Anniversary to the priesthood
- For John and I celebrating our 12th Wedding Anniversary

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Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Scapular Enrolment and Distribution
 July 16—St. Augustine Church, Waikiki
 5:00pm Mass – 5:30pm Scapular Investiture
Canonization Mass of Blessed Juan Diego
 July 30—Venue to be announced, call 943-7088.

Testimonies

"Shanita's music moved me as I listened to her CD. I was inspired so much that I had to look her up and give her a call. Thanks to Saint Michael Center, Shanita returned my call."

—Hima

"Shanita came to sing at my mother-in-law's funeral and her voice melted away the sorrow. We pictured mama in heaven with Jesus, smiling down at us. Shanita touched us especially with the family request of *Healing Oil* by Crystal Lewis and it sounded better than the CL's recording."

—Doris Dela Pina

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"I have known this songbird for almost eight years. I am honored that she will be singing for the mass when I make my first vows as a Capuchin Friar in August."

—Marvin Bearis

Performance Schedule

July 6 Wedding for Chuck and Maria at Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 July 13 Wedding for Oscar and Tori at Our Lady of Good Counsel
 July 13 BCC Retreat at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi Valley
 July 20 Mahalo Dinner at Waipahu United Church of Christ
 July 20 Graduation Dinner for Jared Antoque in Pearl City
 July 30 Canonization Mass for Blessed Juan Diego (To be announced).

Call 943-7088 to schedule Shanita for your next event.