



HONORING A CENTURY OF FAITH: REFLECTING ON THE 1926 CORNERSTONE CEREMONY IN PAIA

BY: ALMIE LONZAGA

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In the early months of 1926, the community of East Maui experienced a defining moment in its spiritual history—the laying of the cornerstone for the new Holy Rosary Church at Upper Paia. A Maui News article from January 30, 1926, captured the significance of the day, describing it as “one of the most impressive and interesting events that has taken place in East Maui.” This report not only documented the ceremony but also preserved the emotions, pride, and hopes of a community building a church that would serve generations to come.

A Gathering Marked by Unity Across Maui

The cornerstone ceremony drew residents from every corner of the island, showing how meaningful the new church was to the people of Maui. The 1926 article recounts that the Right Reverend Bishop Stephen “made a special trip from Honolulu for the occasion and officiated,” supported by several priests and the Brothers of Mary. This gathering of clergy underscored the importance of the event for the Catholic community throughout the islands while they recognized the role this new parish would play in strengthening life of faith on Maui.

Building for the Future: The Cornerstone Time Capsule

A central element of the ceremony was the sealing of a brass box inside the cornerstone—a carefully prepared time capsule intended for future generations. The Maui News reported that a “hole about eight inches deep was cut in which was fitted a brass box that was later sealed with solder then cemented over.” Inside, the parish placed “a list of the names of all those who pledged to give money, church documents, and coins of all nations and copies of Maui News.” This gesture represented the hopes of the community—trusting that one day, their story would be remembered, rediscovered, and honored.

A Century Later: Fulfilling the Hopes of 1926

One hundred years later, the rediscovery of this 1926 article has brought renewed appreciation for the people who built Holy Rosary Church and for the legacy they left behind. In recognition of this historic moment, the parish will be opening the 100-year-old time capsule on February 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

This rare opportunity allows today's parish community to reconnect with its founders in a personal and meaningful way. The contents of the time capsule—letters, records, coins, and newspapers—offer a window into the world of 1926, revealing the hopes, sacrifices, and values that shaped the parish's beginnings. This opportunity of reflection serves not only as a tribute to past generations but also as a reminder of the enduring strength of faith that continues to unite the parish today.

As the community gathers for prayer, celebration, and the opening of the time capsule, the spirit of the 1926 parishioners lives on. Their story—once sealed in a small brass box—now inspires a new century of faith, gratitude, and community.

