

# St. Rita Catholic Church

**89-318 Farrington Hwy.  
Nanakuli, Hawaii 96792**

**Parish Office: (808) 668-7833  
Website: <http://www.stritananakuli.org>**

Pastor:	Rev. Paulo Kosaka, OFM Cap	
Deacon:	Deacon Harold S. Levy, Jr.	
Office Manager:	Mele Ahuna	
Bookkeeper:	Lalla Andres	
Religious Education:	Karen Victor	808-672-5437
R. C. I. A.	Don Gerry	860-908-5954
Youth Minister:	Ivan Okuda	808-308-6261
Knights of Columbus:	Bill Kozak	609-381-1193
Outreach Coordinator:	Carlin Ujimori-Kaeo	808-668-7833
Outreach/Facsimile/Prayer-line		808-668-7716

## SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at **5:00 PM**

Sunday at **7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM**

**Confessions:** Saturday from 3:15 to 4:00 PM or at the Rectory by appointment

**Infant Baptism:** Contact Parish Office

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Contact the Pastor 6 months before the wedding date for an appointment.

**Funerals:** Contact the Pastor before going to the Mortuary

*We, the people of God of St. Rita Parish in Nanakuli, are united in our belief and in our commitment to Jesus Christ. In the spirit of aloha we respond to Christ's mission of love and freedom with our care, concern and communal action. This is expressed in the stewardship of our treasure through tithing and in the gift of our time and talents through shared ministries.*

*As a fast growing rural parish with a large Hawaiian population we feel a special calling to stand together in truth and justice for indigenous people of this land. As part of the universal Church, our outreach extends beyond our boundaries to the global community and we affirm the human dignity of all peoples. As a parish family we enthusiastically participate in bringing about God's reign of peace. We continue to evangelize, welcome and invite all of God's people to St. Rita Parish.*

IF YOU ☐ ARE NEW TO THE PARISH ☐ HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER  
☐ HAVE A NEW ADDRESS ☐ NEED OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

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# Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 13, 2025

**Remain in me, says the Lord!**

## PARISH CALENDAR

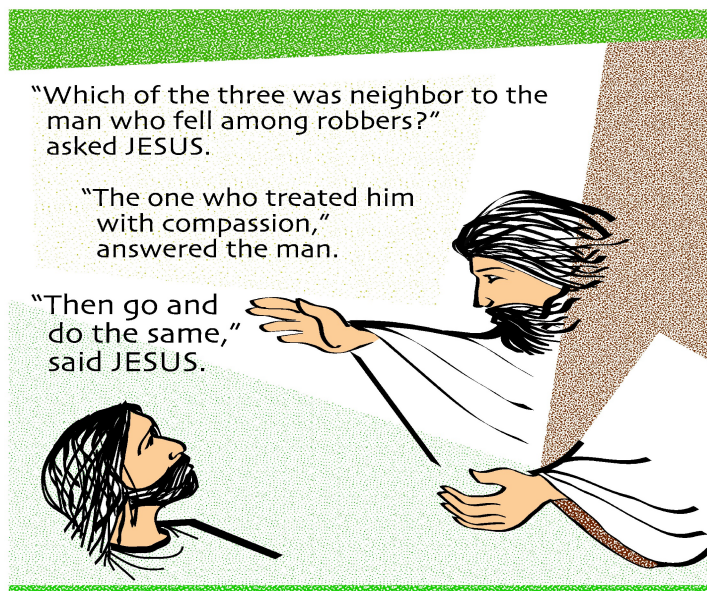
Saturday, July 12	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, July 13	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a. m.	Mass ( <i>Live Stream</i> )
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, July 14	..... 10:00 am	<b>Funeral - Mass Joseph Padayhag (+)</b>
Tuesday, July 15	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, July 16	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 17	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	Communion Service
Friday, July 18	..... 7:30 a.m	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>
	..... 8:00 a. m	Mass
Saturday, July 19	..... 8:00 a. m	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Gn:18:1-10a:** The Lord appeared to Abraham in the form of three visitors. Abraham invited them to his home, and he and Sarah prepared them a generous meal.

**Col:1:24-28:** The apostle Paul found suffering a joy, in order to build up the body of Christ, the church. By preaching the fullness of god's revelation, Paul hoped every person might become complete in Christ.

**Lk:10:38-42:** Martha became angry with her sister Mary who sat down and listened to Jesus rather than help with housework. Jesus told Martha, however, that Mary had the better choice:





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Knights of Columbus council 16414 would like to congratulate all St. Rita class of 2025 graduates. Our council consists of men from St. Rita parish who have stepped up and want to make a difference for the parish. If you are a man who is at least 18 years old, in good standing with the Catholic Church, and interested in becoming a Knight, please contact GK Bill Kozak at 1 (609) 381-1193. Council 16414 had fundraisers such as baked good sales, breakfast bentos, and more. If you'd like to support Council 16414 with your time, talent, or treasure please reach out to any brother knight or call GK Bill.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Adopting Andrews has made us more aware of God's power and of his love for us. We realize that he always has a perfect plan for our lives." Read more at <https://www.bit.ly.AdoptionLoveStory>. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "An Adoption Love Story"

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Jul 13 Sun: 15<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Dt:30:10-14; Ps:69; Col:1:15-20; Lk:10:25-37

**Jul 14 Mon: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**

Ex:1:8-14, 22; Ps:124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Mt:10:34-11:1

**Jul 15 Tue: Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor**

Ex:2:1-15a; Ps:69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt:11:20-24

**Jul 16 Wed: Ordinary Weekday**

Ex:3:1-6, 9-12; Ps:103; 1b-2 3-4, 6-7; Mt:11: 25-27

**Jul 17 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

Ex:3:13:20; Ps:105:1 & 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27; Mt:11:28-30

**Jul 18 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

Ex:11:10-12:14; Ps:116:12-13, 15 & 16bc, 17-18; Mt:12:1-8

**Jul 19 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

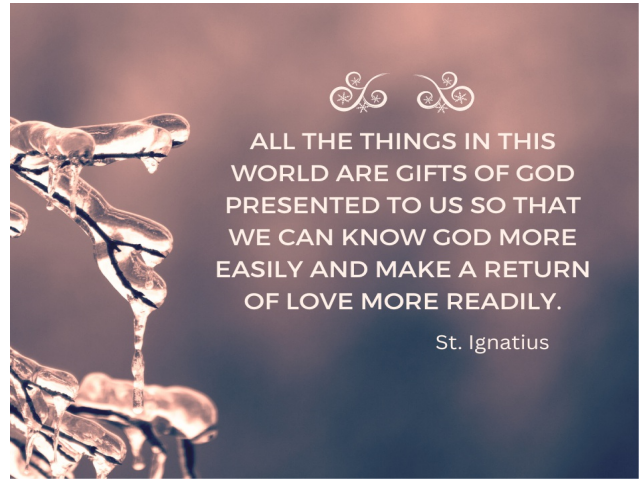
Ex:12:37-42; Ps:136:1 & 23-24, 10-12, 13-15; Mt:12:14-21

## SAINT KATERI TEKAWITHA



**Prayer:** Saint Kateri, you fell in love with God at an early age and never abandoned Him. You persevered through difficulties and remained faithful to Jesus, your Spouse. Please pray for me, that I may discover your purity of heart and radiate my love for God as beautifully as you did. Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

## NOTES OF STEWARDSHIP



## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 2,748.00
Candles	67.00
Mass Intention	65.00
Outreach	80.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,960.00</b>

## RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 895.00
Repair & Maintenance	85.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 980.00</b>

## MAHALO FOR SHARING YOUR TREASURE

# JESSE ROMERO

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**JULY 13, 14 & 15 2025**  
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**6:45 PM PRESENTATION**  
**8:00 PM LIGHT PUPUS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RON COCHENOVER**  
**808-306-7502**

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### OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri  
8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm  
Closed Wednesday  
Weekend Appointments  
Available



## **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C July 13, 2025**

**Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha ‘Ohana Nui’ia**

### **HO’OMAIKA’I – CONGRATULATIONS to ST. RITA PASTORAL COUNCIL**

We extend our **congratulations to “our newly formed” St. Rita Pastoral Council Members.** With the quorum of members present we have elected the following members as officers 2025 - 2026: **President** – Ivan Okuda, **V. President** – Cherrielynn Kamahale and **Secretary/Recorder** – Brenda Levy.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 7:00pm. Mahalo and God bless you all for sharing your Time and Talents!**

### **OUR PRAYERS and CONDOLENCES**

We extend **our prayers and condolences to Joseph (husband) and to Aubrey Ohana at the death of +Ernestine (wife),** mother and grandmother this past week Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral is still pending. Let us remember **+Ernestine** and the **Aubrey Ohana** in our prayers. **Eternal Rest Grant unto +Ernestine O Lord, and Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her. May +Ernestine and the Souls of all the Faithful departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen.**

**COMING FUNERAL MASS:** The Funeral for the soul of **+Joseph Padayhag** will be held here in St. Rita Church this **Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**. The remains will arrive at 8:30am followed by funeral mass at 10:00am. Inurnment will take place at Punch Bowl Hawaii Cemetery at 3:00pm. We extend our condolences to **Padayhag Ohana. Eternal Rest Grant unto +Joseph Padayhag O Lord, and Perpetual Light Shine upon him. May +Joseph and the Souls of all the Faithful departed in the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace, Amen.**

### **OUR PRAYER CORNER:**

Let us remember in our prayers, **Howard Guerrero** who is in ICU at Queens Hospital (downtown). Also, our homebound parishioners, **Jovita Bolian, Winnona Gomes and Nancy Vierra.** The **sick and elderly** are remembered in the parish daily rosaries and on Wednesday mass is offered especially for the sick. Please call the office and leave your message for Fr. Paulo to arrange a homebound visits and **Anointing of the Sick** in the month of August.

**OUR LADY of Mt. CARMEL FEAST DAY – WEDNESDAY, JULY 16<sup>th</sup>**. The Holy Mass will be offered for our Sick, Elderly, Homebound and Deceased. Also, for the Poor Souls and special enrollment to Brown Scapular will take place after the Holy Communion.

## Scripture Reflections

### Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

**Background Context:** Our First Reading is taken from Deuteronomy where we find **Moses' final address to the Israelites before entering the Promise Land**. Moses' words spoken to the Israelites come at a pivotal moment as the Israelites stand on the threshold of a new beginning. They had wandered 40 years in the arid Sinai desert – wilderness where they endured many hardships to rid from their harden hearts any attachments to the slavery of old - to the false Egyptian gods. It is in this wandering in the desert that they slowly grew to place their total trust in the true God whom Moses revealed to them as the God of their ancestors Abraham, Issac and Jacob.

The Israelites who left Egypt and survived the 40 years of wandering in the Sinai desert – wilderness were only **Moses, Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh**. The rest of the adult generation who left Egypt died in the desert – wilderness as consequences of their lack of faith and rebellion against God. It is during these 40 years of wandering in the desert- wilderness that the new generation of Israelites were forged and cleansed of their attachments to the false gods of Egypt. Now Moses reminded the Israelites that faithfulness to God's Commandments will lead to life and blessing in the Promise Land they are soon to enter. Here Moses emphasized that God's Commandments are not distant or impossible to follow. Unlike the prevalent ancient Egyptian myths where secrets or divine wisdom were hidden in inaccessible places and only revealed to the elite class alone, Moses insists that **God's Word** is accessible to all.

The passage contains a strong exhortation to return to God whole heartily and **refutes any notion** that obedience to God is only for the spiritually elite or those with special knowledge. Instead, **God's Will - Commandment is within the reach of every person. God's Law is not a burden but a gift, a way of life that aligns the Israelites to God's desire for justice, love and mercy.**

**Application to Life:** This passage **emphasized the need for us to internalize," that is to strive to make God's Word – Commandments our second nature"**. That our discipleship in Jesus Christ is a path **"already written in our hearts"** therefore **God's Word – Commandment** is not just about our outward conformity to rules or laws but to a transformation of our hearts in our day to day lives. We are exhorted to rediscover our precious Faith; a Faith we must never stop rediscovering. What our Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, the Sacraments, Scriptures and the Catechism have given



us, we are called to always rekindle that fire of Faith. We encounter God who is always near and accessible for God is present in our hearts.

In our world today even, adult Christians still seem to only obey God's Commandments out of fear or solely in need to gain something and not freely out of love for God. Like children who are willing to obey their parents only as long as the parents are present or nearby. But once they are away from them, they choose to do whatever they feel or want to do. Often children and even adults find out much later in their loss why God's Commandments are necessary and important, not simply because of the necessity to obey, because they give abundant life. Often, we discover late, that obedience to God and to just parents give countless blessings, protection and peace of mind. That is why God's Commandments are not burdensome.

Today people search far and wide for meaning, purpose, direction and spiritual truths. Tragically many search in wrong places and easily fall victim to bad influence of **“so called friends”** or superstitious activities that are harmful to their lives. When we do not internalize our Faith daily it is easy for us to follow the examples of the world – the non-believers who dabble in superstitious things, such as horoscopes, tarot cards, glass globes and many others. All trying to know the future or feel power over others. By indulging in them we fall into being narcissistic and making oneself a god, breaking the First Commandment. Most of all, we fail to trust in God's goodness and love for us. As Christians we are not to follow such worldly - pagan path. God sternly forbid such practices, **“...divination, sorcery and consulting with the dead as abomination to the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). (See also Leviticus, 19: 26, 31: Proverbs 3: 5-6).**

**God's Word – Commandment** is not hidden in mystery or locked away for the few. It is close and within our grasp, in our hearts. Faith is not about extraordinary feats, but about everyday choices we make to love, to forgive, and to follow God's Will – God's Commandments and doing so daily they become internalized in our hearts, becoming second nature to us. We are challenged not only to listen to the Word of God but to speak it and more importantly to live it. The question is not **“Can we, do it?”** but **“Do we choose it?”** The **Word of God-Commandment** is already near; we need only to say yes!

#### **New Testament: Colossians 1:15-20**

**Background Context:** The Second Reading taken from **Paul to the Colossians** is often referred to as a grand hymn celebrating the Supremacy of Jesus Christ. Written to the community – the Church in the City of Colossae who were facing confusion about spiritual powers and cosmic forces, Paul firmly proclaimed that Jesus Christ is above all. Jesus



Christ is the **“image of the invisible God”** meaning Jesus Christ perfectly revealed God’s nature in visible form **“Word was made flesh and dwell among us.” (John 1: 14).**

Most of all, Jesus Christ is **“first born of all creation”** Jesus Christ is equal to God the Father and the Holy Spirit and holds authority over all creation.

All things heavenly and earthly, visible and invisible, were created through Him and for Him – reference to **Colossians 1:16.** Jesus Christ is the sustaining force the **One Who** holds all things together. More than just cosmic Lord or Being, Jesus Christ is also the Head of the Church, the first to rise from the dead, marking the beginning of new creation. The final verses underline that in Jesus Christ **“all the fullness of God dwells, and through His death, God reconciles all things bringing peace through the Cross.” (Colossians 2: 9-10).**

**Application to Life:** In a world where we often feel divided or fragmented, where we feel overwhelmed by competing loyalties, fears and uncertainties, this passage from Colossians calls us to re-center to re-focus our discipleship as Christians, and it tells us that in **Jesus Christ Who** is the **Anchor** of all creation and the **One** that brings harmony and meaning to the universe and into our daily lives.

Therefore, we are challenged as disciples in life’s daily struggles to always place our trust in Jesus Christ. We need to often reexamine **where we place our trust. Do we place our trust in money – material gains? Or in relationships that now simply gratify us but not lead us closer to Jesus Christ? Do we believe that Jesus Christ holds all things, even our brokenness and struggles together? Are we allowing Jesus Christ to be the Lord of our lives, that is in our home, our workplaces, schools and wherever we may be?**

It is often in **the crucible or in our encounter with deep sufferings** that visits us unexpectedly in our ordinary lives that **truly tries and shakes our trust and faith in God to the core.** The tragic flash flood that took place last week on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July along the Guadalupe **River in Texas** is an example. Several news sources reported that **Guadalupe River rose 26 feet in just 45 minutes** leading to devastation and the death of over 120 persons (50 were children) and 173 still missing across the Kerr County in central Texas. There were many young children who were in summer camp and near the Guadalupe River valley. Though there are many stories related to this tragic flash flood, I share one heart breaking, yet an inspirational story of **two Harber sisters, 13-year-old Blair and 11-year-old Brooke.** They were both swept away by the river 15 miles from their site and later their lifeless bodies were found. What touched many was the witness of their faith in the face of the tragedy. As the **Guadalupe River water rose**, they were seen by others praying their



rosary together and later when they were found, though lifeless, **the sisters Blaire and Brooke** were holding their hands together and the rosary in their hands. Though they may not have known it at such a young age, they displayed – witnessed what it is to trust God and place their lives in Jesus and Mary. **How blessed that they had internalized their Faith for in their crucible hour – severe hour of trial they held to the Faith firmly, together!** The **joined funeral for Blair and Brooke** is scheduled to take place this week in **St. Rita Catholic Church- School in Dallas, Texas.**

### **Gospel: Luke 10: 25-37**

**Background Context:** A young woman once missed a train while helping an elderly woman who had fallen on the platform. When her friends scolded her later, she replied, **“I can catch another train, but she might not have had another chance to be helped.”** This simple moment captures **the heart of the gospel passage.** The Scholar of the Law knew the Law - love God and love your neighbor, but seem to have sought a loophole when he further asked, **“And who is my neighbor?”** Jesus responded not with the rule or law but with a story – parable that flipped the question entirely.

The Scholar of the Law stopped Jesus and asked. **“Teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?”** Jesus simply responds, **“what is written in the law and how do you read it?”** The answer comes by the quotation of the **Jewish Shema**\* (\*used in preface to all prayers by the devout Jews). A brief statement of loving God with all one’s being and the one’s neighbor as yourself. Jesus recognized his correct answer and told him to do this, and he will live. He had correctly recognized that the love of God and the love of neighbor is the Commandment that binds all other commandments together and cannot be separated.

Yet interestingly Luke revealed at the very beginning of the gospel that the scholar of the law was less than sincere of heart toward Jesus for he **“...stood up to test Jesus”** and **“wanted to justify himself.”** Upon being told **“you have answered correctly and do this, and you will live”** he further sought Jesus by boldly asking Jesus, **“And who is my neighbor?”** Jesus in his wisdom told a parable, to draw the Scholar of the Law to enter the parable and from within to find the answer himself.

Truly **Word of God** spoken in Deuteronomy unfolds, **“...for this command that I enjoined on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you ...it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out.”**  
**(Deuteronomy 30: 11-14).**



**Application to Life:** A man was beaten, robbed and left half dead. **A priest first came by then a Levite** – both were religious and respectable figures and both passing by saw the victim, but each one passed by on the other side of the road. Both avoided any contact with the unfortunate victim and simply walked away. **Why?** were they thinking about their responsibilities at the temple and the ritual impurities they might contract from assisting the bloodied half dead victim? Because for any Jew who come in contact with a corpse or human blood becomes impure and defiled, unfit for ritual celebration in the temple or in the synagogues. If so, each would have to go back to Jerusalem temple and be purified and be cleansed before they return home.

Then comes a **Samaritan**, a cultural enemy of the Jews, one not only avoided but despised by the Jews and expected to be of no good. Yet he is the one who upon seeing the victim was moved to compassion, he stopped and lends assistance. He even lifted the victim on his own animal and took him to an inn and paid the expenses. He even promised upon his return to pay for what further expenses the victim may incur. The Samaritan becomes an unexpected example of love of the neighbor.

What made him do such an act of mercy and kindness to the extent of such generosity? We note too that only the gender of the victim is told, not the social status or his race and background. For the point is that a neighbor is not defined by any of those qualifications, but by anyone who we come upon in the pathways of our life that needs our mercy. Also, the parable gives us a hint of what made the **Samaritan** did what the **Priest** and the **Levi** did not do by revealing to us the **Samaritan's heart**. When the Samaritan traveler came upon the victim, **"he was moved with compassion at the sight," (Luke 10:33)**. The **Samaritan** possessed compassion in his heart while the **Priest** and the **Levi** did not. The English word **compassion** comes from **Latin "com-passio" – "to suffer with" – "Com – with" and "passio – to suffer."**

**Compassion** is in the same family of words as **respect, mercy, kindness, humility, forgiveness and love**. Indeed, all these virtues are not found in the hearts of man or woman who do not first possess compassion. More interestingly **the word compassion as found in the Samaritan, is the same word used in the Scriptures when Jesus was moved with compassion, such as Luke 7:13 Jesus raise the only son of the widow of Nain and John 11:1-45, Jesus raising Lazarus from the tomb.**

**This parable reveals the core of Christian spirituality.** That path to eternal life is not found by turning inward perfecting ourselves, clinging to religious identity or to our inner circles alone. Rather it is found in turning outward in love for the other, especially the one



we least expect or even those we may not feel anything positive about. The **Samaritan** showed us what divine love and mercy looks like, **having compassion for others** in action and not in theory. This is often unexpected, inconvenient, and costly in many ways. The real question is not **"who is my neighbor?"** But **"to whom can I be a neighbor?"** Eternal life begins not in heaven but here, **"the kingdom of God is at hand"**, when we allow God's love and compassion to flow through us to the wounded beside the road of life. For true Faith do not avoid or despise the broken, it bends down and lifts up to heal. The victim by the roadside is not named or identified. For it is anyone that comes along the path of our life in need of our compassion. Jesus ends with the challenge, **"go and do likewise."**

**Story:** One afternoon, **Peter** was walking home from school. He noticed **David**, his classmate who was walking across the street in the same direction. **Peter** thought it was odd that **David** was carrying loads of books, sports equipment and other things piled up high. Suddenly **David** tripped and dropped everything on the sidewalk. **Peter** hesitated at first, but something moved him to go across to help. **David** thanked him and the two walked together and **David** invited **Peter** and offered him a soda - Coke 0.

Through the remaining months of the school year **Peter** and **David** talked and whenever they met and sometimes ate lunch together. They never became good friends but were friendly to each other because they were just two different people. Graduation day came, and over 500 seniors graduated and threw their caps into the air. **David** came over to **Peter** and congratulated him and thanked him. Then he asked **Peter**, **"did you know why I was carrying all those things and had emptied out my school locker?"** **Peter** could hardly remember but asked why?

**David** replied, **"well, that day, I hit the bottom...emptied out my locker taking everything home. I was planning that afternoon to commit suicide. But when I tripped and dropped everything on the sidewalk, you came across the street and helped me."**

**"That moment I felt that I was important I meant something, and I mattered. Though we never became close friends, that day opened my eyes to the good that still exist in the world."** **"That someone had compassion for me. You prevented me from committing suicide, you saved my life Peter, thank you!"**

That simple act of compassion did more than **Peter** could ever know. We are all called to be a **Samaritan** to our neighbor, and perhaps many of us would not be doing the things like what the **Samaritan** did but we all can do what is at the essence of being a Samaritan, to have compassion for another. **Yes, compassion is of God, it is the touch of God's**

**hand!** Have a blessed week in the Lord! Fr. Paulo ofm cap.

*fr. paulo ofm cap.*