



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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DISCIPLE OF THE WAY

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 13, 2025

The Gospel of today's Liturgy recounts the parable of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37) — we all know it. In the backdrop is the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho along which lies a man who had been beaten badly and robbed by brigands. A priest passing by sees him but does not stop; he keeps on going. A Levite, someone who performed services in the temple, does the same thing. "But a Samaritan", the Gospel says, "as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion" (v. 33). Let us not forget these words — "he had compassion" on him. This is what God feels every time he sees us in a problem, in sin, in misery. "He had compassion" on him. The Evangelist makes it a point to specify that this Samaritan was on a journey. So, even though he had his own plans and was heading towards a distant destination, this Samaritan does not come up with an excuse but allows himself to get involved. He allows himself to get involved with what had happened along the road. Let us think about this: isn't the Lord teaching us to do just that? To look off into the distance, to our final destination, while paying close attention to the steps to take here and now in order to get there.

It is significant that the first Christians were called "disciples of the Way" (cf. Acts 9:2), that is, of the journey. In fact, believers strongly resemble the Samaritan — like him, the believer is on a journey, he is a wayfarer. Believers know they have not "arrived", but they want to learn each day, following the Lord Jesus who said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). "I am the way". The disciple of Christ walks along following Him and thus becomes a "disciple of the Way". He or she goes after the Lord, who is not sedentary but is always on the way. Along the way, he or she meets people, heals the sick, visits villages and cities. This is what the Lord did, he was always on the move.

The "disciple of the Way" — that is, we Christians — observes, therefore, that his or her way of thinking and of acting gradually changes, becoming more and more conformed to that of the Master. Walking in Christ's footsteps, the disciple becomes a wayfarer and — like the Samaritan — learns to see and to have compassion. He sees and has compassion on him. First of all, to see: his eyes are open to reality, not egotistically closed in on the circle of his own thoughts. Instead, the priest and the Levite see the unfortunate man, but they pass by as if they do not see him, they look the other way. The Gospel teaches us to see — it leads each of us to correctly understand reality, overcoming preconceptions and dogmatism each day. So many believers take refuge behind dogmatisms to defend themselves from reality. Then, it teaches us to follow Jesus, because following Jesus teaches us to have compassion — to become aware of others, especially those who suffer, those who are most in need, and to intervene like the Samaritan, not to pass by but to stop.

Faced with this Gospel parable, it can happen that we might blame others or blame ourselves, pointing fingers at others, comparing them to the priest or the Levite — "This person, that person goes on, that one doesn't stop..." — or even to blame ourselves, counting our own failures to pay attention to our neighbours. But I would like to suggest another type of exercise to you all, not one that finds fault, no. Certainly, we must recognise when we have been indifferent and have justified ourselves. But let us not stop there. We must acknowledge this, it is a mistake. But let us ask the Lord to help us overcome our selfish indifference and put ourselves on the Way. Let us ask him to see and to have compassion. This is a grace we need to ask of the Lord: "Lord, that I might see, that I might have compassion just like you see me and have compassion on me". This is the prayer that I suggest to you today. "Lord, that I might see and have compassion just like you see me and have compassion on me" — that we might have compassion on those whom we encounter along the way, above all on those who suffer and are in need, to draw near to them and do what we can do to give them a hand.

Often, when I am with a Christian person who comes to speak about spiritual things, I ask if they give alms.

"Yes", the person says to me.

"So, tell me, do you touch the hand of the person you give the money to?"

"No, no, I throw it there".

"And do you look into the eyes of that person?"

"No, it doesn't cross my mind".

If you give alms without touching the reality, without looking into the eyes of the person in need, those alms are for you, not for that person. Think about this. Do I touch poverty, even the poverty that I am helping? Do I look into the eyes of the people who suffer, of the people that I help? I leave you with this thought — to see and to have compassion.

May the Virgin Mary accompany us on this journey of growth. May she, who "shows us the Way", that is Jesus, help us also to become ever more "disciples of the Way".

POPE FRANCIS — July 10, 2022

Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend Joshua Osoria's Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders on **Saturday, July 19 at the 5:00 PM Mass**, celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Wayne Lobsinger. This is a significant milestone on his journey to the priesthood, where Joshua will publicly express his intention to continue preparing for ordination as a deacon and, God willing, as a priest. Your prayers and presence are a meaningful support on this path of discernment and service.

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, July 12</u> <i>+Nicola Scarfone</i>	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, July 13</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, July 15</u> <i>Saint Bonaventure</i>	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, July 16</u> For a special intention	11:00 AM
<u>Thursday, July 17</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Friday, July 18</u>	11:00 AM

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, July 19</u> <i>+Deceased members of the Morabito Family</i>	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, July 20</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM

HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR YOUTH MINISTERS (JULY)

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope. We pray in thanksgiving for those who have responded to your call to lead young people to encounter your Son in the community of the Church, through catechesis, the celebration of the sacraments, loving service to their brothers and sisters, and in the joy of shared experiences with one another. Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

XV Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 12 de Julio</u> <i>+Marvin Castillo Courtade +Roberto Courtade +Rafael Lazo +Sigfredo Valle</i>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 13 de Julio</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
<u>Martes 15 de julio</u> <i>San Buenaventura</i>	12:00 PM
<u>Miercoles 16 de Julio</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 17 de Julio</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 18 de Julio</u>	12:00 PM

XVI Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 19 de Julio</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 20 de Julio</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

ORACIÓN DE HÉROES DE LA ESPERANZA PARA LA PASTORAL JUVENIL (JULIO)

Señor Dios, con la gracia del Bautismo nos has dado vida nueva en Cristo y nos has llamado a servir como peregrinos de esperanza. Te damos gracias por todos los que han respondido a tu llamada para guiar a los jóvenes al encuentro con Jesús, tu Hijo, Dentro de la comunidad de la Iglesia, a través de la enseñanza, la celebración de los Sacramentos, el servicio y la alegría de compartir las experiencias de la vida. Que en su servicio hagan crecer la esperanza en los corazones de todos y sigan siendo instrumentos de nuestra fe, que nunca defrauda. Te lo pedimos por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

Parish Office Summer Hours

For the months of July and August, the Parish Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Horario de oficina de Verano

La oficina estará abierta los martes, miércoles y jueves de 8:30 a.m. a 12:00 p.m.