

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Monday, October 3, 2016**

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### Today's Prayer and Reflection:

*A Samaritan . . . was moved with compassion. (Luke 10:33)*

We hear the phrase all the time. There are Good Samaritan hospitals and Good Samaritan laws; people may even call you a Good Samaritan if you do something helpful. But familiarity might make us miss an important point.

When Jesus told this parable, it was shocking. Jews didn't simply see Samaritans as social outcasts. They were their enemies. First-century Jews looked on Samaritans the way most Americans viewed the Nazis during World War II.

So the idea that a Samaritan man could be the hero of a story and an example of mercy must have shocked the scholar questioning Jesus. In theory, the scholar could admit that loving God and loving his neighbor were important. But it was hard to accept that a Samaritan could be so extravagant in love as to stop for a wounded Jew, bind his wounds, and pay an innkeeper to take care of him.

How might this parable surprise us today? Let's look at it from a different angle. Picture yourself as the wounded person. Who would you least expect to help you in a tough spot? Could the "hero" of your personal parable be a difficult or disobedient child who goes out to buy you a birthday present? Or a selfish co-worker who steps in to take some of the load off your shoulders when you face a family crisis? Or, to broaden the concept, what about an atheist who donates to Catholic Relief Services after a tragedy overseas?

These examples might be hard to swallow, but that's precisely the point of the parable! Each of us is a child of God, with both the capacity for virtue and the capacity for sin. In that mix, good can sometimes shine, even in the most unexpected people. This is because goodness is a reflection of God's life, and every person is created in his image and likeness—even the people we think are the furthest from the Lord.

So when you think about people who have disappointed you or rub you the wrong way, be on the lookout for goodness, and celebrate it when you see it.

*"Jesus, open my eyes to your presence, even in people I have a hard time accepting."*

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### Today's Announcements:

- The afternoon bus will not be dropping off at St. Alphonsus this week due to Cruisin' the Coast. The bus will still drop off at St. James, the Natatorium, and Sacred Heart.

- October is Life Month and Students for Life will be sponsoring events throughout the month as a reminder to respect all life. This week, the focus will be on putting an end to bullying in our school: 60% of 4th-8th graders report being victims of bullying. As we “stomp out bullying,” make friends with someone you don’t know at school this week
- A lost library book was found: *Falling Kingdoms* by Morgan Rhodes. If this is yours, see Ms. Dapremont to pick up.