

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEARC 2025

Dear beloved Parishioners,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is approached by a lawyer who asks: ***"Who is my neighbor?"*** It's a question that sounds innocent, but as Luke tells us, it was asked "to justify himself." In other words, the lawyer is looking for limits. He wants to know how far mercy must be extended, and who can be excluded.

In response, Jesus tells one of His most beloved and challenging parables—the Good Samaritan. A man is robbed and left half-dead. Two religious men, a priest and a Levite, see him but pass by on the other side. Then comes a Samaritan, a person traditionally despised by the Jews. And he is the one who stops, binds the man's wounds, and ensures his care.

What's radical is not just the compassion—it's who shows it. Jesus shatters the categories of **"insider"** and **"outsider."** He teaches that love of neighbor is not about proximity or identity, it is about mercy in action.

We live in a world often divided by politics, race, religion, and ideology. It's easy to define who we think "deserves" our kindness. But Jesus will have none of that. His invitation is clear: ***Go and do likewise.***

The Good Samaritan is not just a moral example; he is a mirror. He reveals our own excuses, our hesitations, our fears. And he also points to Christ Himself—the One who saw humanity broken on the roadside and came down to bind our wounds, even at the cost of His own life.

As disciples of Jesus, *we are called to love without labels, to serve without borders, and to care without conditions.* The real question is not "Who is my neighbor?" but "Am I being a neighbor to those in need?"

Let us open our eyes this week to those wounded along life's path: the lonely, the overlooked, the stranger and

respond with compassion that reflects the heart of Christ.

May God bless us all,

Fr. Albert and Msgr. Mike

