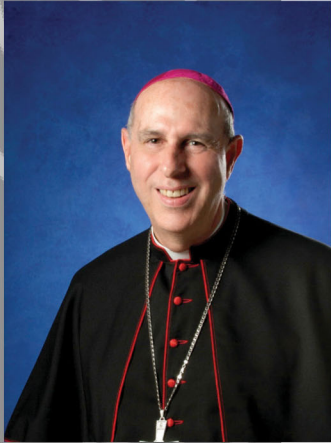




ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII
DIOCESE OF HONOLULU
WITNESS TO JESUS

Dear Friends,

Peace be with you!



Consider this: you see a brown-skinned family living in a van, and you guess that they might be Micronesian, but you don't really know. To be honest, you don't really care. If anything, you're annoyed that they are there.

An elderly man ends up in the hospital with kidney failure. A nurse calls you to say that he is asking for you. He has no family. He has no one. Could you visit? Well, you say, he's not really a friend, more like an acquaintance. True, you used to work together, but that was a long time ago. Besides, you have your own health issues to consider.

You convinced a woman to keep her child and you are proud of that, but then when she approaches you, in obvious need, carrying her newborn, you pretend you don't see her. You've got enough on your plate.

The Gospel for this Catholic Charities Sunday, the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, relates a scenario similar to these, with a terrifying turn. The one not recognized is you.

"Then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. ... Depart from me' ... For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Catholic Charities Hawaii does not look the other way. It does not pretend it doesn't know you. It does not shut the door.

Rooted in the Gospel, Catholic Charities Hawaii exists to lovingly serve all people, the poor, the stranger, the elderly, the last and the least, regardless of their past.

Catholic Charities invites all people of good will to share in its mission.

It is inviting you. Please accept the invitation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu