

Part 3: Principles—What Is Common in our Lives Is Common To Our Good

In part 2, the story of the Good Samaritan revealed how crisis demands an immediate response, like a first responder offering urgent care. Then in order to make the response complete, we must also enter into the other's situation with compassion. Now we will look at the quality of presence that shape life in the midst of crisis.

From "Let Us Dream," Francis points out that people need to know how much we need one another in life. By being present to one another in times of need, we build a foundation for the common good. (Let Us Dream, 6).

Presence is at the core of St. John Bosco's educational system, a desire to be with and for the young. God's presence is to be with us in life so that it overflows! Consider the heartfelt mutual presence of the father and mother in the parable of the father and the lost son. Likewise, in relation to the story of the Samaritan, we know the first responder wears the other's pain to help ease the robbed man's loss of dignity.

The Knights of Columbus witnessed this notion of God's overflowing presence at a presentation on the front steps of St. Benedict Parish. The gathering included the Knights Executive Board and representatives from The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Sara Elizabeth Centre, and St. Benedict Parish. Each group was presented with a cheque from monies raised at the September 11 golf outing this year. The recipients, each having faced significant financial setbacks due to the pandemic, were awe-stuck when the cheques were presented.

Questions:

1. *Over the course of the pandemic, what brings you to believe that "we really need one another"?*
2. *Recall an instance in which you experienced someone was present to you in a time of need or when you were present to another in their time of need.*