

Part 2: Crisis Needs First Responders

In the last section, we looked at crisis through the lens of the lost son parable where the poly-sided nature of God unleashed mercy as a way to welcome the son back to life! Now we turn to another parable with many layers of meaning.

The story of the Good Samaritan is another parable that relates to crisis and response. In *Fratelli Tutti*, Francis suggests that by entering into the characters' roles of the story, we gain a deeper understanding on how we are to respond in the face of crisis (*Fratelli Tutti*, 69-72).

At the heart of crisis is the need for an immediate response, *a first responder* of sorts! We can't stay within ourselves and we can't be complacent or hold back, rather we have to come out of ourselves and throw ourselves into the mess—all the way up to our necks!

For sure this type of response happened in our parish when, parishioners responded to the natural disaster in Haiti by their desire to contribute relief money. Two options were made available to them, one to the Archdiocese of Toronto and another to the Salesian Missions. Such a spontaneous response ushers in goodness, generosity and hospitality, all of which restores and sustains life.

By way of the Samaritan's response, not only did he play a sympathetic role in responding to the robbed man's needs, but by entering into the other's pain, it reduced the sting that resulted from the robbed man's loss of dignity.

Questions:

1. *How can you "come out of yourself" to be a "first responder" in a crisis?*
2. *Which is easier for you: to enter into the wound of another person in crisis, or to have someone enter into your wound in the midst of a crisis?*