FREE Evangelization Inserts for Bulletins, Newsletters & Websites 5th Sunday of Lent April 1-2, 2017

Note that these reflections can be found in Word and pdf at <u>www.catholichawaii.org/inserts</u>

Questions, Comments Suggestions? Contact Kristina kdeneve@rcchawaii.org or 808-203-6767

Living Catholic in the 808: Facing the Situation

By: Deacon Michael Weaver St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Kailua

When our young child was fighting cancer, people often complimented my wife and me on how strong we were in the face of this challenge. We would nod and smile and then later say to each other "What choice do we have? We can't change our circumstances so let's just get through it."

Since that time, I have reflected on our response quite a bit. It occurs to me now that others' remarks are not to be so easily dismissed. We thought we were just slogging through our pain as best we could. To others, however, how we approached the situation seemed to help them face their own suffering and daily trials with more courage and fortitude.

In 2 Corinthians, Paul reminds us that it's possible to be of "good courage" in suffering to be full of hope, peace, and joy—as we hold fast to the Gospel. I think this means that our best evangelization can happen unintentionally. We don't have to accomplish anything extraordinary to be messengers of the Good News. Just by living our lives as best as we can, no matter what the obstacles and challenges, we proclaim the Word to others.