## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time January 27-28, 2018

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

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

## Living Catholic in the 808: 38 Minutes of Grace

By: Christopher Malano Business Manager Newman Center, UH Manoa Excerpt from newmanhawaii.org/church/nonviolence

On January 13, our confirmation students were gathered for their confirmation retreat. Obviously, the emergency alert from our phones captured our attention. A missile threat!

Without a clear sense of what was happening, we first asked the students to call their parents. With nowhere to go—the university buildings are locked on the weekend—and no time to waste, we turned to the only thing we were certain of—our faith.

In almost a processional pace, we quietly migrated toward the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament resides. We stood around, took a few deep breaths, centered ourselves, and surrendered everything to the One who was in control, God. We prayed, we embraced, and we waited together.

Considering the circumstances, our confirmation students remained calm and though young, they showed great maturity. They exhibited for us adults that in all moments of life, our faith provides opportunities to turn to Christ. We have someone sharing life with us. We do not travel this journey alone.

Those thirty-eight minutes, though frightening, were also a reminder of Grace. Even when we may be afraid, we know that Christ is present with us. How can we experience Grace in our own lives? We need only to look to our children for such models of faith.