

For Discussion

Wine and Oil

*And when he saw him, he had compassion.
So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.
(Luke 10:33-34)*

Why did the Samaritan apply wine and oil to the man's wounds?

How can we offer wine to people who are hurting, perhaps sharing New Church ideas that may be helpful?

How can we offer people oil—the “oil of human kindness?”

The wine and oil seem to have been the first aid of ancient times. How are we like doctors in our expression of charity?

“First do no harm” is often said about the practice of medicine. The Heavenly Doctrine tells us something similar about charity: “The first thing of charity is not to do evil to the neighbor...” (*True Christian Religion* 435). Are there situations in which seemingly charitable acts might actually be harmful?