



Mika Teofilo (Samoan Chaplaincy) - Mika was born and raised in Upolu, Samoa, in the village of Leauva'a. He also goes by his Matai (Samoan Chief) title name—Salā. Mika was a trained and experienced microbiologist for over 23 years. His journey to New Zealand began when he was given a scholarship by the World Health Organisation to take advance studies in Auckland and Wellington. Eventually, he was offered a job in Auckland Hospital in 1984 in the microbiology laboratory. His family moved down to Wellington where he worked in the medical transfusion laboratory at Wellington Hospital, until May 2010. Soon after he was offered the opportunity to manage the Samoan Chaplaincy of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Alongside his career as a microbiologist, Mika has always been involved in parish work. He was part of the parish council with St Mary's Elsdon Parish until it was closed and became part of the Titahi Bay Parish which is now part of the new amalgamated parish of Our Lady of Hope. He also sits as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Holy Family primary school in Porirua. He joined Launch Out in 2003 and finished his Diploma in Pastoral Leadership from The Catholic Institute (TCI) in 2011.

As Samoan chaplain Mika organises and coordinates different activities for the Samoan community such as youth, Sunday schools, and mothers' group among others. He collaborates closely with other agencies within the Catholic sector and units in the ADW to promote inclusion and diversity within the archdiocese.