

“It’s hard to throw stones when you’re washing feet.

Luke Lezon (Love like Jesus)

In our Gospel this weekend Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law. The description of the way He does it is significant: “He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up”.

Jesus continues to take people by the hand today and lift them up. How? We are the hands of Jesus. When we reach out to our neighbor or to people who are suffering or in need, we take them by the ‘hand’ and lift them up. In fact, this is the job of the followers of Jesus, the Church, today. We are called to take people by the ‘hand’, and lift them up

As a parish we have been the hands of Jesus for the last 157 years in the daily life at St. Stephen Parish Community. Sometimes all it takes is a kind word or smile. Sometimes it means sharing a meal or bringing your gently-used clothing to a store that will sell or give them to the needy. Sometime it means giving an extra scoop of something at the St. Francis Seraph Kitchen or wiping off the dirty tables after the guest have left. Sometimes it means live more simply, so others can simply live. Sometimes it means sacrificing a few more minutes to listen to a story for the third or fourth time in a row, and sometimes it means saying ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to our hearts desire.

We who gather weekly, occasionally or not often are still marked in baptism with the cross of Christ. Each of us is a “little Christ,” spreading God’s gift of redemption to that portion of the world we touch and lift up. We have been spreading God’s gift now for decades. We are called to continue to be the Gospel and lift others up.