



St Teresa Catholic Church  
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*"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours." St. Teresa of Ávila*

September 10, 2019

Dear St. Teresa Parishioner,

If the quote above brings a familiar tune to your mind, it may be because it's the inspiration for one of the songs in our songbook. The verses bring the point even closer to home:

- 1. No hands but yours to heal the wounded world, no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering, no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.*
- 2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see, to find the lost, to gaze with compassion, no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.*
- 3. No feet but yours to journey with the poor, to walk with this world, with mercy and justice. Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the Children of God.*

*Christ Has No Body But Yours by Steven C. Warner, 2003*

The refrain echoes after each verse, *"Here on this earth yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion."* Indeed, we are the hands and feet and eyes of God in the world, and we are called to serve with the joy of compassion.

Stewardship is best described as love in action and stewardship done well brings joy. Just ask any of our many parishioners who regularly share their gifts of time, talent and treasure with others in so many wonderful and beautiful ways. There is a deep inner sense of joy that comes with serving others, helping neighbors pick up debris after a tornado or putting money into the collection to help the local needy. There is joy when proclaiming the good news as a lector, serving at the table of the Lord as an altar server, offering the very body and blood of Christ as a Eucharistic Minister and when singing praise to the Lord from the choir and from the pew. There is joy when bringing holy communion to those in nursing homes and the homebound, when praying for those in need and when offering sympathy to a family mourning the loss of a loved one. There is joy helping with the Chili supper, working at the hamburger stand and making sure the church and grounds are in great shape. There is joy when passing on the gift of faith in religious education, in the

home and at bible study. There is joy when praying the rosary for vocations, visiting sick relatives/friends, and offering prayerful support for those receiving sacraments for the first time. And there is joy whenever we serve with compassion.

Stewardship is a lifetime journey that begins with the realization that all we are and all we have are gifts from God. Out of gratitude for all that God has given us—our life, our family and friends, our faith, our talents, our ability to earn a living, etc—we have a responsibility and duty to return a portion of those gifts by sharing our time, talents and treasure with one another, in loving service. Stewardship is our way to say “Thanks, God, for all the ways you have blessed me!”

Our Pastoral Council and Finance Commission have been reflecting on the “Journey of Faith” and how that is lived out in the seasons of life. Last year we looked at Stewardship through the newest eyes of our faith community; through our youth, those in religious education, the sacraments of initiation and those new to our parish community. This year we are focusing on our adults who are the backbone of our parish, those who serve as the hands and feet of God in our community and in the world. We also have a special gift for you at the masses September 14 & 15 to help celebrate the ways you share blessings with others.

Enclosed with this letter is the annual St. Teresa Stewardship of Time and Talent sign-up sheet. Please take a few minutes to review it and to prayerfully consider how you and your family may be able to participate, being the hands and feet of God and serving with the joy of compassion. We ask you to please return the completed form by October 1<sup>st</sup> so that they can be tallied and Stewardship volunteer rosters can be updated. Also, please remember to return the form even if you are not signing up for anything new. If you have questions about Stewardship or other concerns in the parish, members of the Pastoral Council, Fr. Tim and I are happy to help you.

Yours in Christ,

**Pastoral Council**

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