

Listening to the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, We understand that one of the signs that the Risen Lord is still present in our Church is the continuation of the ministry of Jesus by his followers. As we catch the account of the healing of the lame man in the Temple by Peter and John's words and touch we witness a demonstration of the continued ministry of Christ, long after Jesus walked on the earth; proving there is a link between the earthly ministry of Jesus and the earthly ministry of the Church. The believers who make up the Body of Christ in the world are the visible and incarnate embodiment of Christ's ongoing ministry of teaching and healing, reconciling the world to the love of God. This connection reminds me of a story about the Forman family. They had moved into a new modern house and were working on the interior decorations. Mr. Forman insisted on hanging a large picture of Jesus in the living room. To the dismay of the other family members who said it didn't fit the decorum. But Mr. Forman stood his ground insisting that Jesus blessed them with this beautiful home and that meant that Jesus was going to get the place

of honor.

After a few months, Mrs. Forman started to notice that the picture of Christ was having an effect on her children and their friends. It was sending a message loud and clear to all who entered their home that Christ was in the house. The Lord, the healer, the shepherd reigned in their home, he was holding their marriage together, he was holding the family together and he brought blessings to their home.

As we live do we understand where Christ stands in our life? Do we appreciate the bond that we are called to have with the Risen Christ? St. Teresa of Avila once wrote, “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ’s compassion to the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.”

If we have a hard time picturing Christ in our minds and our hearts then maybe we need to put a picture of Christ in our home. Like

the Formans, as a reminder of who we are bonded with. Put the face of the Lord front and center so we can be encouraged to minister to the poor, the sick, and the lost.

Listen again to the words that Peter spoke to the lame man in the Acts of the Apostles: “Silver and gold I do not have but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone, with that in place, let us build the Kingdom right here on earth.