

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
September 26, 2021**

**CUT IT OUT**

The Spirit has been given to more than just a chosen few, it has been given to all the baptized. As people filled with the Spirit, we are to be prophets who announce the presence of God in the world. We do that by our words. But as Jesus reminds us in Sunday's Gospel, we particularly manifest God's presence, or fail to, by what we do with our hands, our feet, and our eyes.

Like Jesus, prophets use their hands to feed the hungry, to reach out to the powerless, and to comfort the hurting.

Like Jesus, prophets use their feet to go to those who have walked away from the Church, to those who are confined to their homes because of age or illness, and to those who are lost in a world in which they find no meaning or purpose.

Like Jesus, prophets use their eyes to recognize others as children of God, who see the injustices in society, and who notice the light of God's presence even in the darkness.

However, we can also use our hands, feet, and eyes to sin and so lead others away from Christ. We can fail to be Spirit-led prophets.

Hands can be used to abuse and hurt, to steal, and to hang onto evil habits.

Feet can take us in wrong directions, move us into harmful relationships and situations, and have us walk in a path contrary to the Gospel.

Eyes can be used to look down on others, to view people as mere objects or threats, and to see the things of this world as more important than the things of God.

We need to cut out such behavior, and act as the prophets of the Lord that we became at baptism.

In your service, prayerfully.

Father John Carlos