

## **The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, September 5, 2021**

### **GESTURES SPEAK**

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses gestures more than words to cure a man unable to hear or speak. Jesus takes the man away from the crowd so that he can give him undivided attention. Jesus then puts his finger into the man's ears. He then spits and touches the man's tongue.

Certainly, the words of Jesus were powerful, and equally powerful were his healing gestures. For the deaf man, they communicated far more any words of Jesus ever could, for he was unable to hear.

Today, Jesus continues to transform the lives of people as the Good News of the Gospel is preached by his Church. He also touches people through the signs and gestures made present in the Sacraments.

In Baptism, a person is washed clean and reborn in the waters of new life. In Confirmation, people are filled with the Holy Spirit as hands are laid upon them and they are anointed with holy chrism. In the Eucharist,

we become one "holy communion" with God as consecrated bread and wine are shared.

But the signs that communicate the presence and action of God are not limited to the sacraments. As members of the Church, our actions, our gestures, also communicate, or fail to communicate, the presence of Jesus.

Jesus communicated by word and gesture, and so do we. Our gestures and our actions must match the words of faith we so easily say at Mass. As the deaf man would tell us, gestures can speak more powerfully than words.

In your service, prayerfully.

Father John Carlos