

The Starfish Story:
Your Story, Our Story

(Based on the writing of Loren Eiseley)

As a young boy and girl walked along a beach at dawn, they noticed an old man ahead of them picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. Catching up with the man, the girl asked why he was doing this. The old man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," exclaimed the girl. "How can you alone make any difference?"

The old man looked at the starfish in his hand and then tossed it safely into the waves. He turned to them smiled, and said, "I made a difference to that one."

When we see, experience or hear about the tremendous needs in the world, in our neighborhoods, in our brothers and sisters, in our own parish, in our own families or in ourselves, we may feel helpless. The problem seems immense. However, if you think about helping just one person or one family at a time, suddenly you'll realize that you can make a difference.

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

We have entered into the warmth of the summer months. There is a promise of renewal..rebirth. With renewal comes hope. You can see it in the smiles of children and you can hear it in the chorus offered by the birds.

At St. John's Church, we pray and learn about many families and individuals throughout the world, who dearly need to feel the warmth of hope in their lives. And we pray and learn about people in our own parish, who need that special assurance of God's love and delight.

We know from the Scriptures that God wants every child to be able to love and be loved. Furthermore, WE as a people of faith, we too want every child of God to know a measure of God's love as known to us through God's Son, Jesus Christ. That's why St. John's Church is so important to all of us.

I'm inspired by the stories so many of you offer. I'm inspired by the manifold and good ministries going on here at St. John's Church. But I am primarily inspired by your passion and purpose in being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in reaching out to others in love. You step up to help shoulder the burden. You kindle embers of hope so precious in our hurting world, and in the hearts of many.

Thanks to each one of you for putting your caring into action. You, too hold a special place in my heart and prayers.

See you in Church.

Your fellow pilgrim and brother in Christ,

Father Ron⁺