

Scripture Reflection

The Easter season continues to fill our hearts with joy and gratitude for all that the Lord has done for us in Christ. Today's readings once again remind us that true gratitude overflows in love and service of others.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the early Church faces the challenge of caring for a growing community. The apostles, grateful for God's call, appoint deacons to serve those in need so that the mission of proclaiming the Word can continue. From the beginning, gratitude and service have gone hand in hand in the life of the Church.

In his letter, St. Peter reminds us that we are "living stones" and asks us to let ourselves "be built into a spiritual house" (1 Pt 2:5). Each of us is "chosen and precious in the sight of God" (1 Pt 2:4) and has a part to play in building up the Body of Christ.

In the Gospel, as Jesus prepares to return to the Father, He promises that His followers will continue His work: "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these" (Jn 14:12). Gratitude for Christ's saving love compels us to serve as His hands and heart in the world.

The *Annual Catholic Appeal* gives us a way to live out this calling. Through our shared generosity, we serve one another in faith, hope, and love through lifegiving ministries and programs. Grateful hearts working together make Christ's presence known to those most in need.

Today, let us renew our trust in the Lord, who is our way, our truth, and our life. With grateful hearts, may we serve others with gladness and help build up His Church. Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit aca.archstl.org to learn more about the impact of your generosity.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

True gratitude naturally overflows in love and service of others. Each year, our gifts to the *Annual Catholic Appeal* make Christ's love present throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and lead others to Him through life-giving ministries and programs.

As we prepare to launch the *Appeal* follow-up efforts in our parish, please consider making a gift today. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass or make a gift online at aca.archstl.org.