

building hope

Family of Four Parishes Lent 2019

Week 5 Reflection

“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one sir.” The Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

Have you noticed how we live in a society that is quick to condemn the other? Condemnation for being different or guilty before proven innocent is the norm not the exception. When you read the Gospel for this Sunday, the Pharisees were a group quick to condemn the other, the ones not as pious and holy as they. Not only were they quick to condemn the woman, but they also were quick to condemn Jesus, by trying to test him, thus bringing condemnation on Jesus.

Today, some are quick to condemn others because they are poor – they must be lazy. There are some who are quick to condemn because they are from a different country or believe differently. Some are quick to condemn because they love differently. There are also some who condemn the rich because they think they must have gotten their riches illegally. There is a long list of ways people condemn others but none of us are “without sin” in that regards.

In the midst of the Pharisees’ condemnation we see the beautiful mercy of God in Jesus Christ. Jesus is not quick to condemn, but graciously bestows forgiveness and new hope. Jesus does the same in our lives. He is always ready to forgive and bring new hope and life to our lives each and every day. Every day is a new day of God’s “doing great things for us,” as our Psalm reminds us. God forgives and gives us new life each day because of the ultimate act of forgiveness demonstrated by Jesus Christ on Good Friday.

How are we building this new hope and new life in the other? Are we quick to condemn or ready to show love, forgiveness and understanding? Let us find strength in our prayer, fasting and almsgiving in these final days of Lent to bring forgiveness and hope to all we know, love and meet.

In today’s gospel Jesus takes a potential act of violence (the stoning of the adulterous woman) and turns it into a moment of encounter and forgiveness. Jesus’ death is another transformational moment. Within the violence of the crucifixion, Jesus’ infinite love transforms the violence into the ultimate reconciliation of humanity and divinity. In longing to be conformed to Jesus’ death, we are asking for the grace to become the light that is stronger than darkness, the love that is stronger than hatred, the life that is stronger than death. Let us persevere in our Lenten practices confident that the God of life will bring us to Easter joy. *(Living Liturgy 2019 pg. 98)*

Jesus gives us a model of mercy in today’s gospel. How have you experienced giving and receiving mercy in your own life of faith?

When and with whom are we quick to condemn? When and with whom are we ready to forgive and love without limit?

How has your Lent been going? Where have you seen new hope and light in your life? Where do you need an extra measure of God’s mercy and strength?

-Brian Eggers, Director of Music and Liturgy, SS Peter & Paul



Milwaukee
Habitat
for Humanity®

impact report

2017 Milwaukee Habitat Impact Report

education



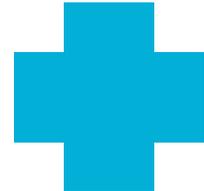
87%

of Milwaukee Habitat homeowners' children have graduated from high school. That's nearly 30% higher than the average graduation rate of Milwaukee Public School students.

55%

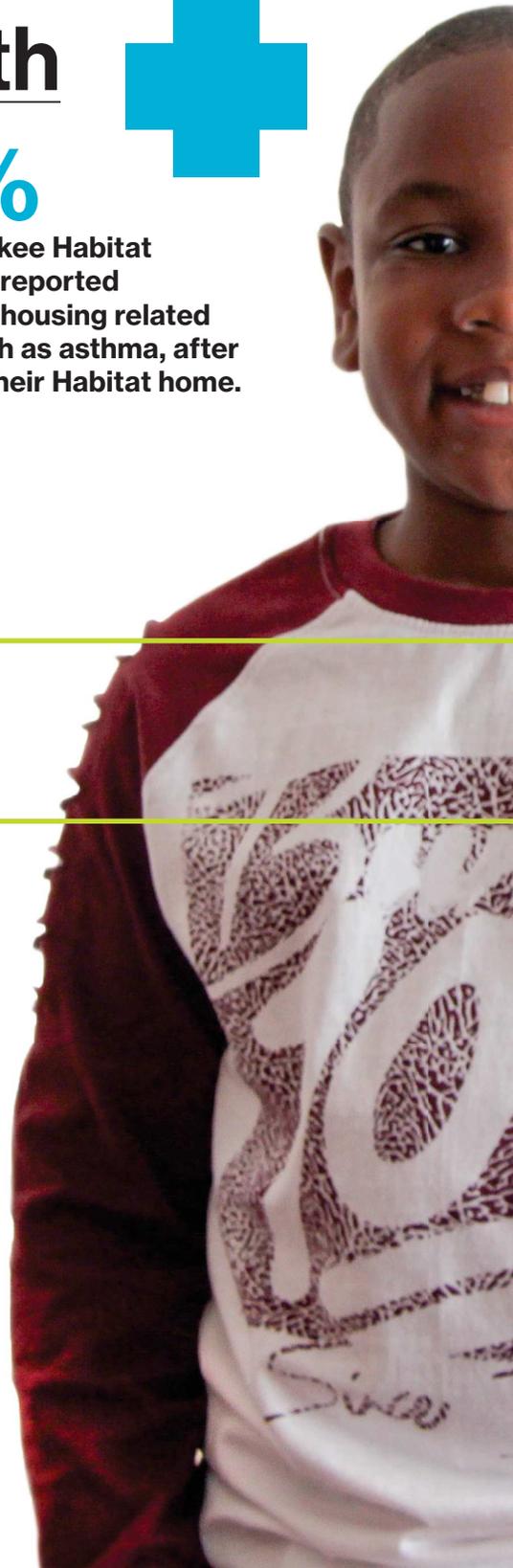
of Milwaukee Habitat homeowners reported their children's grades improved since moving into their Habitat home.

health



50%

fewer Milwaukee Habitat homeowners reported experiencing housing related illnesses, such as asthma, after moving into their Habitat home.



"My daughter was two years old when she had her first seizure. The apartment we stayed in, I worried about lead poisoning. Since we moved into our Habitat home my daughter is seizure free. I thank God every day for Habitat." - Toni, Milwaukee Habitat Homeowner

community



76%

of Milwaukee Habitat homeowners say they cannot imagine ever moving or they plan to stay in their home for a very long time.

72%

of Milwaukee Habitat homeowners feel comfortable with their neighbors.