

# Dear Padre,

*I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?*

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the "hook-'em horns" sign. You wouldn't give the "thumbs-up" sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word "sinister" is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning "left."

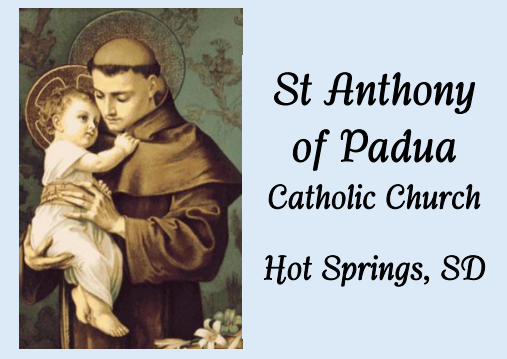
Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



ALONSO/CATHOLIC

## Welcome to Our Parish Community Fourth Sunday of LENT ~ March 15, 2026



**St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church**  
Hot Springs, SD

### Weekend Mass Schedules:

Saturday ~ 5:30pm	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 8:00am	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 10:30am	St Anthony of Padua Church ~ Hot Springs, SD
Sunday ~ 2:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

### Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B-9



**A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**  
Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025

**Church Library**

**BOOKS, DVDs, CDs & More!**



St Patrick's Day ~ March 17<sup>th</sup>

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



~ St Rose of Lima wrote:  
Our Lord and Savior lifted up his voice and said with incomparable majesty:  
**"Let all men know that grace comes after tribulation. Let them know that without the burden of afflictions, it is impossible to reach the height of grace. Let them know that the gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase. Let men take care not to stray and be deceived. This is the only true stairway to paradise, and without the cross, they can find no road to climb to heaven."**

### Parish Office: ~ St Anthony Parish

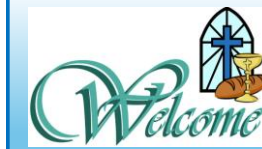
**Office Hours:** 8:00am – 5:00pm  
*(closed for lunch ~ noon – 1:00pm)*  
**Street Address:** 538 University Ave  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 969  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
**Phone:** 605-745-3393  
**After Hours:** 605-745-3278  
**Email:** [sohillscatholic@gwtc.net](mailto:sohillscatholic@gwtc.net)  
**Website:** [www.stanthonyhotsprings.org](http://www.stanthonyhotsprings.org)

### Pastoral Staff:

**Pastor:**  
Rev Collins Igwilo  
[cigwilo@diorc.org](mailto:cigwilo@diorc.org)  
**Deacon:**  
Dcn. Craig Pearson  
605-891-9164  
**Office Manager / Bookkeeper:**  
Susie Hayes  
605-745-3393

### Parish Office: ~ St James Parish

**Street Address:** 310 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 568  
**UPS/FedEx:** 308 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Edgemont, SD 57735  
**Funeral Contact:**  
Linda Tidball 605-685-4301  
**Office Manager / Bookkeeper:**  
Lynn Westberg 703-869-0886  
[lfwestberg@gmail.com](mailto:lfwestberg@gmail.com)  
**Mass Information:**  
Greg Lacey 605-662-5048



Welcome to our Catholic faith community. If you are a new parishioner interested in becoming part of our parish community, please stop by the Parish Office and register or call for more information.