

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, October 11, 2020

GOD'S BANQUET



This Sunday's readings, especially the first reading and the gospel, invite us to reflect on the Eucharist. From them, we can reflect on this sacrament as a banquet.

The Eucharist is the banquet that God offers us. In the first reading, Isaiah prophetically speaks of the Eucharist. It announces a future saving intervention from God for all peoples, using the image of the banquet. Jesus, in the gospel, compares the invitation to participate in the kingdom with

God with the invitation to a wedding banquet. Thus, both texts refer to a festive meal to speak of the salvation that God has given us.

But God does not impose salvation. God does not compel us to accept anything. God respects human freedom. In the parable of the gospel, the guests did not accept the invitation to the wedding banquet. Are we too busy with the things of this world that we do not value what is most important?

What is the use of winning the world if I lose my life? So, if we accept the invitation, we should wear the "wedding dress", that is, be a Christian not only in words, but also in works. It is not enough to be baptized; it is necessary to live as children of God.

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos