

## **The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, November 22, 2020**

### **GOOD SHEEP**



In this Sunday's Gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King, Jesus tells us what makes people the "good sheep." Jesus speaks of the last judgment when he will come as king to separate the sheep from the goats.

The sheep who will be judged worthy of a place in his kingdom are those who showed mercy and compassion to the hurting. They fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, cared for the sick and visited the imprisoned.

In other words, they did what Jesus did. They followed the teaching and example of Jesus, their Good Shepherd.

Imitating the Good Shepherd is more important than ever in this time of the coronavirus pandemic when many people feel disconnected and afraid. They are like the lost sheep waiting for someone to pick them up and rescue them from the darkness, despair, and loneliness of this moment.

Those who will be judged unworthy of a place in the kingdom are those who failed to recognize their connection and obligation to their fellow human beings. They failed to realize that in neglecting to show love and compassion to others, they were failing to show love for God.

We know why Jesus is honored as the Good Shepherd.

This Sunday, Jesus tells us what we are to do if we are to be recognized as the "Good Sheep" worthy to hear the king say to us, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Attentively at your service in our Lord,

Father John Carlos