

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos,
Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, January 26,
2020**

FISHERS OF MEN



When beginning his saving mission, Jesus calls some to become his collaborators. Jesus needed and needs people to help Him in his mission: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him... immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.” We are all called by Jesus to be fishers of men, that is, to help others to know and love God and to climb onto the boat of Jesus. Fishers of men: it is an expression that expresses an evangelizing and missionary enthusiasm that, in our secularized society, no Christian can neglect.

Every day we need to examine our conscience on this point: are we responding to Jesus' call, are we being faithful to Jesus' message, is our life governed by Jesus' will?

To be collaborators with Jesus, we must ask for and promote unity among all Christians. The second reading of St. Paul to the Corinthians tells us about the scandal of the division of Christians: “I beseech you, by the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same language and that there are no divisions among you, remaining well united, in the same thinking and in the same action ... Is Christ divided?”

The evangelizing mission that Jesus gives to his disciples (to us) will only be possible if there is unity. Let us therefore pray this Sunday, especially for unity among Christians.

United with you in mission, I am your servant and friend,

Father John Carlos