

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, January 30, 2022

TRUE FREEDOM



In the Church, it is necessary to continue the prophetic mission, of preaching, of teaching, and wanting it to be done not only with words, but also with the life of each baptized person who becomes a witness to the Word of God. In the face of the fragility of the preacher and of every faithful Christian, what always remains is the Word that has been preached. We do not preach ourselves (our life is too fragile, too sinful), we preach the Word, we preach Jesus, the Incarnate Word of the Father, while we ask for the conversion of the heart for us and for other Christians.

Imitating the prophets and facing the adversity of the inhabitants of Nazareth, Jesus proclaims the universality of his message. Elijah and Elisha were also sent beyond the borders of the people of Israel to meet people with hearts willing to convert. It is their mission: to bring the Good News to all the poor and oppressed. The universality of Jesus' message is love. Only love counts. Love is the content of Jesus' preaching, the Good News of God's love for everyone, to awaken in the human person, through faith, this love. In the second reading, we will find the beautiful hymn to charity that Saint Paul left us: "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." This is the ultimate goal of preaching and celebration of the liturgy: to be able to fully live God's love.

The Eucharist is the synthesis of love. In each Eucharist, we are confronted with the Word of God and with its explanation, we are invited to relive the love of God that is given to us without measure and we are invited to grow in charity in our life, because without charity, life has no sense. This is the Good News of Jesus.

On the journey at your service in our Lord,

Father John Carlos