

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
February 13, 2022**

IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE

Tomorrow, Monday the 14th marks the sixth-year anniversary of my coming to Harrison and East Newark; as typical when one crosses an anniversary, I find myself reflecting on these past years. I have shared with you how astonished I was when I received the phone call from Archbishop Myers asking me to take the helm of these two beautiful parish families, not to overlook the beauty and grandeur of the physical structures of the Church of the Holy Cross and Saint Anthony's Church.

There was additional surprise when the archbishop informed me that he needed me to present myself in less than two weeks, leaving no time to prepare myself or the parish communities of this sudden change. Feeling overwhelmed and inadequately prepared, I answered the call and made my transition placing all my trust in the Lord and in the grace of His Spirit.

As I expected the Lord has not disappointed, I was met with great enthusiasm from you, the heart and soul of these amazing and magnificent parish families. Your

patience and charity with me have been heartfelt and you have embraced me as one of your own.

A period reflection also comes with a look forward to the coming years. Despite the difficulties that we face, I am profoundly hopeful in the future of our now one parish family. Unfortunately, a primary concern is our financial situation, there just doesn't seem to be enough to cover operating costs; yet I am hopeful that you will understand my trepidation and work diligently with me to resolve our difficulties. Together we can make a successful transition from fiscal distress to financial comfort. I look forward to working diligently with you as we journey together to the Lord.

As Saint Peter said to Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration: "It's good for us to be here Lord!"

With heartfelt gratitude and joyful praise, your servant and friend,

Father John Carlos