

## The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, February 16, 2020

### LAW AND SPIRIT

Opening the first reading Sirach, it says: “If you choose you can keep the commandments”. Because God gives each one the ability to assert himself freely in the face of good and evil, faithfulness and sin. It is good to know, because the Word of this Sunday puts us before the Law: the Old Law received from God and delivered to the people by Moses, on Mount Sinai, and the New Law proclaimed by Jesus on the Mount of Beatitudes.

The justice of the scribes and Pharisees consisted precisely in the blind application of the law, regardless of the concrete circumstances, thus sacrificing the good and the lives of the people that the Law was intended to promote.

Jesus is going to update the old Law, rereading it in the light of the God of Love that He had come to reveal and manifested in his own free way of acting, transgressing the law of fasting or the Sabbath when charity demanded it. But this does not dispense with the sensitivity of the details; rather, it leads to giving them a

refined attention for the desire to return to charity with our sensitivity. But sensitivity that cannot be confused with scrupulosity.

With this new outlook of Jesus, we also pray the Responsorial Psalm with a different heart: “Open my eyes, that I may consider the wonders of your law. Instruct me, O LORD, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them. Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart.”

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

*Father John Carlos*

来自本堂神父的信息 (the message from Fr. John Carlos)

法律与属灵

翻开读经一德训篇，经上说：【如果你愿意，就能遵守上主的诫命】，因为上主赐给我们每一个人有能力在善与恶面前自由地选择忠信或罪恶。这周主日圣言把我们推到法律面前：由梅瑟在西奈山接受并颁布的旧律法，和耶稣在八福山宣布的新法律。

经师和法利塞人不顾客观情形，盲目地把律法应用在司法判断上，以牺牲民众的利益甚至生命为代价来捍卫所谓的法律，而这些律法的初衷本来应该是保护民众的利益的。

耶稣要更新旧约中的律法，以天主爱的真光来解读旧法律。耶稣以祂自由的行动，来向我们表明天主爱的法律，在一些情形下，祂不惜以违反法利塞人苛守的守斋和安息日法律来展示他的怜悯与慈爱。耶稣这样做，并不是要剔除法律中的要素，而是引导人们在应用那些法律时去伪存真，以仁爱为怀。

带着耶稣的新观念，让我们在答唱咏中用不同的心境来祈祷：**【求你开启我的眼睛，明察你法律的奥妙，上主，请指示给我你的法令，我要仔细遵守。求你教导我遵守你的法律，我要以整个心灵，持守不渝。】**

在福传使命中与您共融，您的仆人和朋友，

**若望卡洛斯神父**