

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
February 7, 2021**

IN THE HANDS OF GOD



In this Sunday's first reading we have the testimony of Job's life, a testimony in which we can find some consolation that can help us. Although it is a narrative character, it is the fruit of an Old Testament epoch greatly influenced by the idea of reward and retribution, that is, that God only rewards those who are just and obedient.

But life is not like that. Like Job, sometimes we feel that everything bad only happens to us; to those

who are evil or do bad things, all is well with them! Therefore, Job lamented for having even been born, for his unhappy life, for his anguish and for his terrible suffering. If evil is seen as a punishment of God, why does Job the righteous suffer?

Today, Job's reflections help us to affirm that the evil of the world, instead of being attributed to God, is something we have to live through, without being able to justify, to the limits of our intelligence. Like Job, like us, what we have to do is put ourselves in the hands of God, trust in God. Only in this way can God rightly act and save.

As the classics of literature say, our difficulties not trials from God, but of the evil in the world, to purify our fragile faith. Overcoming difficulties only strengthens us.

Attentively at your service in our Lord,

Father John Carlos