

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, February 9, 2020

MISSION

This Sunday's gospel briefly expresses Jesus' identifying two characteristics of his disciples. The first characteristic is to be "salt of the earth": the disciple of Jesus is the one who contemplates this world, through the "wisdom" of God's designs. It is Christ, the Word of God, who makes known to us the designs of God, manifested, in a special way, on the Cross.

Today, St. Paul tells us that to proclaim Christ and his cross, human wisdom is not enough, but also the grace of the Holy Spirit who makes us understand the words of Christ, in which we find Christian "wisdom". This is the wisdom that must be communicated by the disciples to the world, being the salt of the earth, so that the world can experience the taste of the things of God.

The second characteristic of Christ's disciples is that they are "light of the world". Just as Christ is the "Light from Light" (Creed), the true light that, when he came into the world, illuminated all men, so must the disciples.

To do good works is to light the lamp, where it shines for everyone who is at home. Practicing charity and loving one's neighbor is a light that illuminates all those around us, not for their own praise, but for the praise of God the Father to spread to all peoples, imitating Jesus in the fulfillment of his saving mission.

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)

福传使命

在这周主日福音中耶稣简短地表述了他对门徒的两个要求。第一个要求就是要做“地上的盐”：也就是说做耶稣的门徒要用天主所设定的“智慧”来反审这个世界。那就是圣言变成血肉的基督用特别的方法在十字架上给我们展现了天主的计划。

今天圣保禄教导我们要宣讲耶稣和祂的十字架，我们人类的智慧不足以明白耶稣的圣训，只有靠着圣神的恩宠我们才会懂得，并从中找到我们基督徒的“智慧”。因此我们基督徒必须要和世界分享这个智慧，即做地上的盐，让普世都能经历到天主的慈爱及怜悯。

耶稣对门徒的第二个要求就是要做“地上的光”。就像基督真光，他来到这世上，光照普世。所以他的门徒也必须要做地上的光。

做善功就如灯塔给屋子里的每个人带来光明。通过做善事和爱近人来光照我们周围的人并不是我们要得到什么赞许，而是要光荣和赞美我们的在天之父，能使更多人认识主，并效仿祂来完成上主救赎的使命。

在福传使命中和您共融，您的仆人和朋友，

若望卡洛斯神父