

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, March 15, 2020

GOD ANSWERS

This Sunday reminds us of the important moment in the history of salvation: the departure from Egypt and the crossing of the desert. The gospel will speak of the living water that Jesus gives to humanity. For this reason, the chosen excerpt from the Exodus that tells of the people's thirst in the desert: "in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses".

The Samaritan woman also goes to Jacob's well to fetch water. It is humanity, always restless, looking for what it needs and desires: life, personal fulfillment, happiness. We can say that human history is a permanent and insatiable search; we always want more than we have, that is, it is our thirst for life and happiness. But, is that all? The people of Israel, suffering and discouraged, say an impressive phrase: "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

We too use this statement. Seeking life, peace, freedom, happiness, we pray to God and, in the face of suffering and anguish, we wonder why God does not intervene in our favor, especially for the most fragile, for those who are unjustly persecuted, for the victims. Why is God silent in the face of so much suffering?

He is not far from humanity nor is he indifferent to our cry, our sufferings and our desires. He is present, speaks and gives himself to each of us without measure. It is evident that he does not give us the water we desire, but he does give us the real water and the real bread.

He Who is the real water and the real bread comes to us to fill us with his grace. That we can also be those who are sent to intervene in favor of the most fragile, of those who are unjustly persecuted, by the victims. This is the answer God brings.

Let this Lent be a time to become more aware of our vocation

Father John Carlos