

## **The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, March 20, 2022**

### **CHANGE OUR LIVES**

Starting on the third Sunday of Lent, the readings of cycle C insist on the need for conversion and on God's mercy. In fact, the ideas of conversion, reorienting our lives to the gospel, repentance, and correction are at the heart of the Lenten message. God calls us to conversion and offers us his forgiveness. This Sunday's gospel is very clear and direct.

Jesus draws a lesson from some events that happened to some Galileans who had revolted and were killed by the authorities and from others who were crushed to death by a fallen tower. In the mentality of that time, misfortunes, accidents, illnesses were considered as a punishment for sins committed. Jesus warns against the temptation to think that those who have not been victims of these misfortunes are being all just and do not need conversion: "But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" Each one has faults, we all have to recognize our sinful condition, we all need conversion.

The perspective from which the need for conversion is called is not that of punishment that awaits them, but that of a good and merciful God who wants to forgive and save us. We all need conversion, no one can say

they don't need it. Many who think they are safe will soon fall. Jesus offers us this Lent an opportunity to change our lives.

Feeling that we are part of the holy People of God, let us joyfully walk this journey of hope.

Father John Carlos

### **四旬期第三主日 (3/20/2022)**

今天是四旬期第三主日。在今天的福音中主耶稣驳斥了当时犹太人包括祂门徒们的认知：即人们的不幸遭遇，例如那些被比拉多杀害的加里肋亚人，以及被史罗亚塔倒下压死的十八人是由他们本身的罪责招致。耶稣邀请那些没有遭到不幸的人跟那些遭遇不幸的人同样需要悔改自己的罪过并做补赎。耶稣警告说：【除非你们改过自新，否则都要同样灭亡！】主基督以无花果树做比喻。无花果树是耶路撒冷城的象征。耶稣用种了三年不结果来比喻人们的心硬而不悔改。

实际上无花果树的比喻也是主基督对我们每一个人的警告。天主是无限仁慈的，祂给我们很多机会去改过，去结果。结什么样的果实和如何结呢？在这四旬期里，教会要求我们多祈祷，禁食，悔过，给予，做善功。通过这些我们才能结出圣神的果实：仁爱，喜乐，平安，忍耐，良善，温和和忠信。