

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, May 29, 2022

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day weekend gives us the occasion for a few reflections and as in any reflection we remember the past and look with hope to the future. This weekend draws our attention to the approaching end of the school year and the beginning of the summer break. This year in unprecedented circumstances due to the pandemic.

After long and diligent work during the school year, a well-deserved break is at hand as we look forward to a resolution to this pandemic and hope to experience the usual summer rest, relaxation and potential vacation trips. While most scholastic programs experience a slight fallback in learning because of the break, most instilled a summer assignment for students, a summer reading list among others.

Similarly, the church also experiences a slight fallback due to the relaxed atmosphere of the summer months. Therefor I invite you to make a personal commitment to our Lord who never relaxes His Grace toward us. Let us make a commitment to continue our Sunday

Mass attendance, wherever we find ourselves. With the added free time for many of us, as we have experienced during this shutdown, we do well to commit to some spiritual reading we don't have the luxury to in our busy schedules.

Memorial Day also draws our attention to the sacrifice of so many men and women who gallantly gave their lives to secure life, liberty and security for all. We are whole-heartedly grateful to all who have lost their lives fighting in all the branches of military service and all our civil service men and women who protect and serve in our local communities.

As we prepare for a restful summer, pray for me and be assured of my prayer for you.

Father John Carlos

耶稣升天节 (5/29/2022)

今日的读经一（宗 1: 1-11）和福音（路 24: 46-53）均强调了主耶稣升天前对他的门徒们的许诺和嘱托。他许诺圣神要降临在门徒们的身上：【我要把我父所恩许的，遣发到你们身上；至于你们，你们应当留在这城中，直到佩戴上自高天而来的能力】（路 24: 49）。他嘱咐门徒们要

肩负起福传的使命：【当圣神降临于你们身上时，你们将充满圣神的德能，要在耶路撒冷及全犹太和撒玛黎雅，并直到地极，为我作证人】（宗 1：8）。

除了许诺和叮嘱，耶稣花了更多时间来准备门徒们迎接圣神的降临和领受新的使命。就像他在旷野里禁食四十天四十夜，三退魔诱来准备他救赎的使命和逾越的奥迹那样，耶稣在复活后到升天的四十天里，多次显现给他的门徒们并给他们施以训导，以增强他们的信德和凝聚力，为领受圣神和有勇气作【证人】而准备。“证人（witness）”在希腊语中是“致命”的意思。可见准备工作是何等重要。当年天主花了四十年的时间来准备，让在旷野中的以色列人进入预许的福地。

领受圣神后的门徒们得到了什么样的【德能】和【高天而来的能力】呢？那就是他们的眼开了，完全明白了耶稣对他们的嘱托和使命。从跟随耶稣，荣耀地复国以色列，升华到得救赎，获得永远的生命和传福音的使命中来。他们也由胆怯变得勇敢和义无反顾。

透过今天的读经和福音，耶稣在对我们作许诺和嘱托，并准备我们。他许诺我们，当他光荣地再来时，我们会和他在一起并分享他的荣耀。他用圣神准备我们，让我们的眼开，从专注世俗转移到向往天国。圣神也让我们勇敢地去福传，做天主爱的见证人。