

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
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GO AND DO THE SAME



In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus confronts us with the great criterion of discernment that allows us to perceive the extent to which the love we say we have for God is, in fact, true: charity towards our neighbor. Like the Doctor of Law in the Gospel, we all know how to easily enumerate the double commandment of love for God and neighbor. However, like the same Doctor of Law, this is not always so clear to us when it comes to recognizing and

loving, in the concrete circumstances, that same neighbor.

Curiously, when clarifying that love of neighbor is the “verification” of love for God, Jesus “dismantles the schemes” of the doctor of the law, placing those who today would be “exemplary Christians” as hard-hearted people, incapable of pitying the need of that poor man, and pointing out as an example of true compassion for his neighbor - and therefore, true love for God - someone who didn't even properly practice religion, according to the criteria of the Jews.

In the recollection of our hearts, let us ask ourselves:

- Which of the characters in the parable of the Good Samaritan do I identify with?
- To what extent is my love for my neighbor - in everyday life - an expression of my love for God?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos