

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
July 11, 2021**

DUST

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus advises his disciples not to remain in the company of people who are hostile and opposed to their message. Jesus knew that remaining with such negative people would only discourage his disciples, slowly drain their spirit and energy, and keep them from ministering to those who would be willing to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

That is advice that we can also apply to our spiritual lives. As Christians we would do well to avoid associating with those persons who disparage the Gospel, who ridicule Christianity, who oppose the moral teachings of the Church, who mock those things we consider sacred, and whose manner of living contradicts the way of life that should be ours as followers of Christ.

The more we associate with such spiritually negative people, the more of their “dust” can get into our eyes and keep us from clearly seeing the truth and way of life proclaimed by Jesus.

That advice of Jesus makes sense not only for our spiritual lives but in every aspect of life. We need to avoid associating with people who tear us down, who criticize our efforts, who delight in pointing out our

flaws, who drain our energy and dampen our joy. Jesus would tell us to move away from such people.

As members of God’s Church, we are aware of the importance of associating with positive, faith-filled people, who encourage us in our walk with the Lord. That is one of the reasons why we gather with our fellow Catholics for Sunday Mass. We come together with good people who support us by their faith and example, and that makes us better people! That is especially important today for we live in a society that seems to be filled with more “dust” day by day.

Yes, Jesus is our source of spiritual wisdom, but he is also a source of wisdom for our daily lives.

In your service, prayerfully.

Father John Carlos