

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, July 24, 2022

PRAYER

Faced with the reality of Jesus often withdrawing to pray in solitude and intimacy with the Father, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, the disciples "naturally" desire to have the same experience: "Lord, teach us to pray"!

In answering the disciples' request, Jesus not only teaches them a concrete formula for prayer, but also tells them about the importance of persisting in it and the attention we must pay to its content.

Regarding the importance of perseverance in prayer in all circumstances, even the most adverse, Jesus tells the parable of the "annoying friend", ending with exhorting the disciples not only to ask the Father for what they need, but to do it with the trust of true children who know that they are loved and cared for by their Father who does not let them lack what is necessary.

For this very reason, the exhortation to confident prayer ends precisely with the indication of the "greatest gift" that the Father does not deny to those who ask him with confidence: the Holy Spirit.

Let us then place ourselves before God, in a moment of silence, asking ourselves the following questions:

- How often do I collect myself to pray, in solitude and silence, in intimacy with Jesus?
- What "makes me want to pray" and "what is the content" of my prayer?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos

常年期第十七主日 (7/24/2022)

今天是常年期第十七主日。在今天的读经一中，亚巴朗为什么要为索多玛和哈摩辣的居民求情呢？因为亚巴朗认为无辜的人因天主惩罚罪人而受到牵连是不公平的，所以斗胆向天主进言。从假设有五十名义人逐渐下降到只有十名义人的前提下天主也不会毁灭这二城的讨价还价中，我们可以感受到天主的公义和慈悲。天主的公义包括对义者的慈悲和对恶者的惩罚。当公义和慈悲有冲突时，天主选择慈悲，也就是说，当全城只有区区十个义人时，天主选择保留恶人占绝大多数的城域而对其不施予毁灭。正如主耶稣所说：【降雨给义人，也给不义的人。】

在现实的生活中，我们也常看到不义的人没有得到相应的报应，而好人有时却遭受不幸。我们因此会问：天主的公义在哪里啊？上述问题是从我们属世的角度看。属世的视野重视的是人生旅程的好坏。如果我们从属灵的视角看这个问题，我们会强调我们人生的目的地，终点在哪里，那就是来世的生命：是永远跟天主在一起，还是永远跟天主

分开的问题。我们追寻的是一个永恒的生命，一个跟天主永远在一起的生命，这也是天主对我们救赎的目的。我们的来世生命取决于我们的人生旅程是否跟随主耶稣，而不是生活的好与坏，顺利与不顺利。