

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
July 26, 2020**

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK?

In this Sunday's first reading, Solomon asks for the understanding and wisdom he needs as king of Israel to govern God's people. In asking for that gift, Solomon reveals that he already has a depth of wisdom. Imagine for a moment if God were to ask us what we wanted. Certainly, Solomon's answer would be a perfect response.

We need the wisdom to appreciate what is represented by the treasure and the pearl of great price mentioned in this Sunday's Gospel. That treasure, that pearl, Jesus tells us is "the kingdom of heaven."

We were made part of that kingdom at baptism. There God the Father claimed us as his children. There Jesus revealed himself as our Savior and Brother. And there we were empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

If we have the wisdom to live as members of that kingdom, we learn the meaning and purpose of our existence. We recognize we are personally known and loved by God. We see our connectedness with others. We

believe that death does not lead to annihilation but rather to God rewarding those who respond to his goodness. As Jesus tells us in Sunday's Gospel, at the judgment the angels of God will be like fishermen sorting their catch who "put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away."

The truly wise and understanding person knows the value of having a relationship with Christ, of being part of God's kingdom. As Saint Paul tells us, "I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ." (Philippians 3:8)

Sunday's readings challenge us to consider how we would respond if the Lord said to us, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you."

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos