

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, July 31, 2022

RICH IN THE EYES OF GOD

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus alerts us to the freedom of heart that we are called to have in relation to earthly goods that must be at our service and not enslave us. Indeed, as we can see from the example of the sharing of the inheritance pointed out in the Gospel, how often material goods are even the cause of division and conflict within families!

Once again, to illustrate a reality that, in fact, is complex, Jesus tells a simple parable, in which material goods are highlighted. No matter how much comfort and well-being they can provide us, it's nothing more than an apparent tranquility, as they can do nothing in the face of the reality of the ephemerality and transience of our life that, sooner or later, necessarily comes to an end.

In profound contrast to the attitude of the "rich fool", Jesus proposes to us another attitude of life, this one that gives true peace: accumulating good works, thus making us "rich in the eyes of God".

In the intimacy of silence, let us ask ourselves:

- In "whom" do I place my trust? On "whom" does my life depend?
- What kind of wealth do I try to accumulate in my daily life: material goods, or "works of eternal life"?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos

常年期第十八主日 (7/31/2022)

今天是常年期第十八主日。在今天的读经一训道篇和路加福音主耶稣的比喻中，我们注意到一个非常相似的话题，就是人在世上辛辛苦苦赚得的财富和产业最后都归于他人，自己得到的只是空虚。主基督在福音中教导我们：

【那些只为自己积累财产，而不在天主前致富的人，也是如此。（今夜就要收回你的灵魂，你所储备的，将归谁呢？）】在读经二中圣保禄宗徒告诫我们要：【追求天上的事，不该思念地上的事。】

难道人靠着智慧，勤奋劳作而积累财富就是错和不好，而那些因好吃懒做，考虑不周，甚至因吸毒，精神错乱而致一贫如洗就是有理吗？显然不是。主耶稣曾教导我们说：

【神贫的人是有福的，因为天国是他们的。】（玛 5：3）什么是神贫？那就是渴慕上主，不论拥有的财富多或少，而依赖天主的人叫神贫。从理财的角度说就是财富如何应用：是用在自己的享乐上，对周围需要帮助的人视而不见，还是有一颗爱心，善用财富来帮助他人。对我们基督

徒来说，就是是否愿意帮助教会，为教会做募捐，让教会有能力去帮助更多的人，使更多的人成为神贫的人，即渴慕上主的人。

在生活中，我们经常听闻许多本来和睦的家庭（包括基督徒在内），为了争夺家产而反目为仇。耶稣今天以比喻警告贪财的人，并提醒人们分辨价值优先顺序，善于取舍，切不可为短暂的物质财富而牺牲精神财富，亲情和友情。我们可能会误解耶稣仇富，但事实并非如此！金钱本身无好与坏，贵在运用得当，造福公益，服务天国。

教友们，今天的经文和福音教道我们要积累天上的宝藏，善用地上的财富，做一个渴慕上主神贫的人。