

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, July 3, 2022

CONTINUE THE MISSION

In this Sunday's Gospel we see Jesus inviting the disciples to “take part” actively in his own ministry of announcing the arrival of the Kingdom of God, calling their attention to the scarcity of “workers in the vineyard”.

Faced with the rigors of living a life not for themselves, but for the Message they proclaim – the presence of the very Son of God among them – Jesus proposes to them an attitude that is no less demanding than the difficulties they already had to face: the total acceptance of everything that is offered to them, without demanding any in return from those to whom they freely announce the Good News.

However, although Jesus sends the disciples “like lambs among wolves”, in the same way that he makes them participants in his mission of proclamation, he also allows them to participate in his mission of care for humanity wounded by illness and by sin, giving them power, like Him and in His name, to heal the sick and cast out demons.

How do I live my apostolate in the Church? Do I continually regret the difficulties I experience, or do I rejoice to be able to participate in Jesus' mission despite the difficulties?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos

常年期第十四主日 (7/3/2022)

今天是常年期第十四主日。在今天的读经二中，圣保禄宗徒说：“割损不割损，都算不得什么，要紧的，是新受造的人。”在圣保禄看来，不论遵守旧约梅瑟法律的犹太人行割损礼或那些外邦人不行割损礼，这些都不重要，因为那只是外在的形式。重要的是心里的割损礼，即属灵生命的割损，那就是“新受造的人”，是接纳耶稣基督信仰的人，是接受主基督新的盟约的人，因为【心中的割损，是出于神；这样的人受赞扬，不是来自人，而是来自天主。】（罗 2：29）

圣保禄宗徒给我们提出的挑战是：我们要做外在形式上的基督徒，还是内心深处真正皈依上主耶稣基督的信友？