

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, August 14, 2022

HEARTS ON FIRE

This Sunday the Gospel tells us about the practical consequences that following Jesus has in the lives of those who, seduced and attracted by him, decide to live according to the logic of the Kingdom of Heaven. Although he still doesn't do it clearly, Jesus speaks to the disciples of the Holy Spirit, the "fire that He comes to bring to the earth", a new fire, with a new light, different from all the fires and lights that the disciples had seen until now. The "only fire" capable of "setting the whole earth on fire" in a fire that "no one can put out".

This "new light", in fact, dispels the darkness of hearts and makes it possible to distinguish error from truth, which sometimes causes divisions within families and communities. The fruit of the option in favor of the truth that so often it is not understood by those who remain in error.

- What is the "fire" that burns in my heart? What "darkness" persists to light up inside me?

- Am I able to affirm the Truth when those around me are plunged into error, or do I "shut up" to maintain a peace that is only apparent?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos

常年期第二十主日读经一反省（8/14/2022）

今天是常年期第二十主日。在今天的读经一中，上主拣选耶肋米亚先知给悖逆天主的犹大王室传话。俗话说：忠言逆耳。贪腐堕落，远离天主的王权视先知的警告与他们的统治对抗，充满威胁。不合他们的心意。这些昏庸的王室成员害怕天主的预言，不仅不思过，反而用恶毒的手段来迫害先知，试图灭口。还指责先知【让战士和全体人民灰心丧志】。

用我们事后诸葛亮的眼光看公元前六百年前的事，觉得这些不信任天主的昏君们最后使得南国灭亡，圣殿被毁是他们自取咎戾。其主要的原因是他们对天主没有真正的信仰，他们在圣殿立偶像，引导百姓拜邪神，对自己权势的过度自信，虚伪，道德堕落，用假先知粉饰太平等。生活在当下，面对世界上各种各样的诱惑和挑战时，我们如何能够有睿智把上主的训导作为我们生活的指南针而不跌倒？或跌倒后有能力和勇气再站起来？我们靠得就是对上主真正的信赖。