

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, August 16, 2020

社交距离摘要:

在当前疫情下，要求保持社交距离。教堂里也不例外，只能就坐指定的座椅，而且喜，怒，哀，乐都藏在口罩后。然而，比疫情造成的社交距离更可怕的是人们的心里距离。大选临近，持不同政见的人互不接纳，互相排斥。

在主日福音客纳罕妇人的信德中，如果耶稣也与那个外邦妇人保持“宗教距离”，那么祂的门徒们传教的范围也只能限定在犹太民族了。但耶稣命令祂的门徒们把福音传到地极。

如果耶稣的门徒也与外邦人保持社交距离的话，大概今天的基督教也只限于少数犹太人的圈子里。

社交距离固然可以预防瘟疫，但当我们走在一起在主内分享福音时排斥有不同政见者是不被接受的。拒绝聆听和排斥有异见的人也有损整个国家的政治健康。

DISTANCING

For the past few months, we have been living in a world of social distancing. People stay six feet apart from those not of their household. Businesses restrict the number of people allowed inside to limit social interaction. Customers are separated from cashiers by

protective shields. Mass goers can sit only in certain pews. Expressions of joy, surprise, pain, and sorrow are unseen, hidden behind face masks.

But there is another kind of social distancing that began before the coronavirus made its unwanted appearance. People were social distancing themselves from those whose opinions and beliefs were not like their own.

Such distancing is especially evident in politics, particularly in this election season. People seem to be standing, literally and figuratively, apart from those holding opposing ideas.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read of an instance of social distancing based not on politics but on religion.

If Jesus had remained “religiously distant” from that Canaanite woman and from all Gentiles, the followers of Jesus might never have shared the Gospel beyond the Jewish nation.

In that encounter, Jesus may have come to realize his ministry was meant for Jew and Gentile alike, it was for all people. When Jesus gave his final instructions to his disciples, he made that clear. “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”

When it came to sharing the Gospel, followers of Jesus were not to socially distance themselves from Gentiles. If they had done so, Christianity would only

be a small Jewish sect and we would not be part of God's Church.

Social distancing may be required for reasons of health. But as we learn in this Sunday's reading, it has no place when it comes to sharing the Gospel with others. And distancing ourselves from those with different opinions may not be good for our nation's political health..

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos