

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
August 21, 2022**

**TRUTHFUL IN LIVING**

This Sunday's Gospel focuses on the coherence of life that is required of all who call themselves Christians, and on how this path of living according to the Gospel is truly a “narrow door”.

Indeed, faced with the warning that “many will try and fail”, Jesus clearly states that a life lived only according to “appearances”, in which “there is a presence in certain religious events”, without, however, letting the Gospel “touching” the reality of acting, thinking and feeling is not enough to achieve salvation. This, as an act of love that is on the part of God, has to be accepted by us with love, which slowly transforms the heart and life, to the point of “not doing the iniquity” of which Jesus speaks.

- What, in my Christian experience, is still “appearance”?
- What in my “acting, thinking and feeling” still needs to be “touched” by the Gospel?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos

**常年期第二十一主日 (8/21/2022)**

今天是常年期第二十一主日。在今天的福音中，主耶稣基督在去耶路撒冷的路上沿途向跟随祂的群众讲述天国的福音。在回答祂的一位听众有关进天国人数的问题时，耶稣回答说：【你们竭力由窄门进入吧！将来有许多人，想要进去，欲不能进去。】【看！有最后的，将成为最先的，也有最先的，将成为最后的。】

今天基督的福音给了我们一个清晰的进天国概念，也澄清了对进天国混乱的理解。一些基督新教的朋友们信奉“只要信耶稣就能得救”，而不考量一个人的品行，是不是自私，贪变，有无爱心，对别人的需求是否冷漠，对自己过失和犯罪有无悔改等。还有一部分神学家们教导大众和修道生们大部分人进天国，少部分人入地狱，不知道他们是根据什么得出这结论。总之这两种进天国的宣称让进天国看上去不费吹灰之力，不用很努力，不用跟随耶稣，承行祂爱人的旨意就可以到达那里。这论调有悖于耶稣今天福音中进天国的教导：即竭力由窄门进，很多人会进不去，因为他们“not be strong enough”（英文）。耶稣基督跟我们新的盟约是爱的盟约。在玛窦福音（25: 31-45）中主耶稣讲得很明白：当祂再次光荣降来公审判时，祂要【如同牧人分开绵羊和山羊。】分的标准就是是

否在耶稣的【最小兄弟】需要是给他吃的，喝的，穿的，并收留了他。行善的得永生，行恶没有爱心的得永罚。兄弟姐妹们，主耶稣对进天国的道理讲得很清楚了。我们要遵从主的教导去行事，而不是听从一些学者神学家的建议。因为那粉饰太平的说教非常误导。