

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
September 13, 2020**

FRATERNAL LIVING



Last Sunday, we reflected on the importance fraternal correction within the Christian life, a life lived in community.

Today, Sacred Scripture points us to another characteristic to take into account in this community context: forgiveness. Forgiveness is not advice, but an obligation. Peter questions Jesus about the forgiveness that must be given to a brother.

With this question, we are told that the Christian community is a community where forgiveness springs and flourishes, where

forgiveness is one of the fundamental characteristics for living fraternal life. Forgiveness is a consequence of the commandment of love, by which Jesus' disciples are identified. Thus, forgiveness is the fruit of the generosity without measure from love.

We all understand Jesus' response to Peter: it is necessary to always forgive. Forgiveness, because it is the result of great generosity, cannot have "mathematical barriers". Forgive and that's enough. Forgive evil (that which hurt us), destroying evil with good; forgive until the other feels forgiven.

However, this 70x7 forgiveness is also related to our attitude of forgiveness, that is, we are always available to forgive. It is necessary to prepare ourselves so that we are always ready to forgive without effort, without tiredness, as if it were the most natural attitude that comes out of our hearts.

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos