

The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, September 18, 2022

GOOD ADMINISTRATOR

The parable of the unfaithful administrator puts us before the wholeness of heart that is necessary to live faithfully to what God asks of us in our daily lives, not only in the great things, which “everyone sees”, but also and especially in the small ones. Things, which “only God sees”, in which our character is tested, and our holiness of life is abides.

Jesus clearly speaks of “two types of goods”, of very different natures: an “external good”, material and transitory, through which our fidelity is tested; and an “interior good”, spiritual and definitive – eternal life – which we can only receive after passing the test of fidelity.

How do I live my relationship with material goods? Am I aware of “being an administrator” or “taking hold” of what, in fact, “does not belong to me”? What are the things that “only God sees” that I am faithful to?

In your service, prayerfully,

Father John Carlos

常年期第二十五主日 (9/18/2022)

今天是常年期第二十五主日。在今天的读经一中，天主借先知亚毛斯之口斥责以色列权贵们对平民，百姓及弱势群体的欺诈，剥削，压迫之恶行，并警告：【我永远不会忘记他们的所作所为。】意思是，天主会惩罚这种不公义的行为。亚毛斯先知抨击那些权贵们滥用他们手中的权力在为自己谋求利益的同时，也剥夺了草民的合法权益，及他们的人性尊严。亚毛斯先知在其它章节中也警告这种不公义的社会行为不仅悖逆与天主的蒙约，践踏人性，而且还招致天主的其它惩罚如干旱，洪涝，庄稼被灾难所毁等。

联想今天的读经一和我们的当今世界，大家不觉得很熟悉吗？经济地位和权柄决定了社会阶层和地位。剥削和的不公义存在在每个社会中，违背了天主公义和爱的法律。最大限度贪变地追逐经济利益极大地破坏了天主的美好创造，导致极端气候加剧，热浪，火灾，干旱，洪涝等。经济不平衡发展，穷困，迫害，人为地缘政治紧张，动荡，及战争造成一波又一波的难民潮。当亚毛斯先知告诫以色列北国因他们悖逆天主的诫命而面临丧亡时，他何尝不也是在警告我们的当今社会？作为基督徒的我们，在这把天主边缘化，而把财富，地位，权柄当成上帝的社会里，我们如何能成为天主所悦纳的子民？我们仅仅参加教堂的礼拜就够了吗？我们可以想象一下：如果我们对周围需要帮助的人不闻不问，只沉浸在自己的小天地里，甚至参与社会的不公义，天主会如何对我们做出祂的判断？