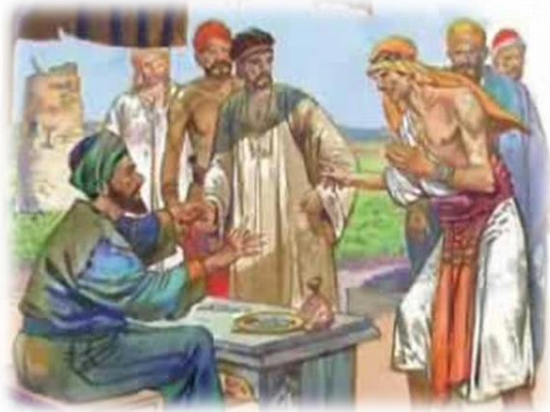


**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
September 20, 2020**

**A PLACE FOR ME**



In this Sunday's, Jesus tells us, how it is with the kingdom of God. Having a place in this kingdom, having a place in the heart of God, is something that God offers to all people.

Some people are blessed to know God's love early in their lives. They have a relationship with the Lord from their childhood; others come to know the Lord later, and sometimes not until almost the last hour.

Like the owner of the vineyard, the Lord is always going out looking for people to "hire." He continually invites those who do not yet know him to have a relationship with him. That invitation comes through the Church, through the preaching of the Gospel, through events in life, through moments of inspiration and grace, through the kindness of a stranger, through an unexpected blessing, or an experience of beauty or intimacy.

When a person responds to that invitation, he or she is assured of being blessed with an everlasting place in the kingdom of heaven.

In his dealings with us God shows us undeserved, unearned mercy, for God wants everyone to receive that same daily wage. God wants everyone to have a place in the kingdom of heaven.

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos