

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
September 6, 2020**

**SILENCE GIVES CONSENT**

This Sunday, our readings tell us that if we see evil, we are to react. We are not to remain silent spectators.

In our First Reading, the Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel that he is to be like a watchman who sounds the alarm when danger approaches. He is to warn those who are engaged in evil behavior. He is to “speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way.”

Then in our Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples on how they are to deal with someone who sins against them. Obviously, that begins with confronting the evildoer and not remaining silent.

If we say nothing when we are treated unjustly or see others treated that way, we give consent to such behavior. Jesus would not have told us how to deal with evil if he did not want us to speak up.

Unfortunately, there are sinful structures and evil people in our society. We would have to be blind not to see the corruption, the crime, the racism,

the discrimination, the injustice, the abuse, the immorality, the devaluation of human life, and so on.

As followers of Christ, we are to sound the alarm like Ezekiel. We are to confront those who sin, and like Jesus, we may have to turn over some tables. We are not to silently watch as these evils darkened our society. We need to remember that silence gives consent!

Let us not forget to pray for each other,

Father John Carlos