

**I am the Good Shepherd;
I know mine and
mine know me.**

*Fourth Sunday of
Easter*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

April 26, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

All children latch onto heroes. No matter who the hero may be, the child wants to imitate the actions, wear the clothes, talk like the hero. In today's Gospel, we are presented with a hero, the Good Shepherd. We are invited to imitate his actions: lay down our lives for others as he did.



In today's Gospel, Jesus proclaims that "I am the Good Shepherd" and "I know mine and mine know me". To know Jesus is to be one with him, the Good Shepherd. This means that we are not only sheep who hear our Good Shepherd's voice and come to know him, but we also

are to become good shepherds ourselves. Transformed from sheep to shepherd, we take up the life our Good Shepherd has laid down. The good shepherd is concerned about, cares for and protects the sheep even to the point of laying down the shepherd's life. Jesus requires of us disciples the same mission — to also lay down our lives (this phrase occurs five times in the Gospel). Shepherding, then, is serious and dangerous business!

Words to reflect upon:

**transformed from sheep to shepherd;
shepherding is serious and dangerous
business**

*When comes the day I dread to see
our broken world, protect me from myself grown
cold that your people I may behold.
And when I've done all that I could,
yet there are hearts I cannot move,
Lord give me hope, that I may be your heart today.
Amen.*

The Gifts of Easter

From Fr. Vega's homily on Mercy Sunday, 2010

Jesus wants to transform and enrich our lives—as he did for the disciples after the resurrection—hence his giving the **Easter Gifts . . .**

PEACE — not "I would like you to have peace", but **HERE IS MY PEACE — TAKE IT — IT'S FREE! — IT'S MY GIFT . . .**

The world cannot give us peace; it doesn't have it...the peace of Christ is not defined as the world defines peace but as the presence of Christ . . .

JOY— our joy, like that of the disciples after the Resurrection is — **TO SEE THE LORD! PRESENT AND ALIVE — WITH US.** Nothing can take our **EASTER JOY** from us... then why are we so often so sad?

IDENTITY — MISSION

Who am I? I am one sent into the world on the same mission as Christ...and that's a tough one!...so the Lord gave us 2 more gifts to help us live the other 3...

THE HOLY SPIRIT—THE VERY POWER OF GOD

We cannot raise our brokenness and sin over the power of God and his desire to love us and save us—**BELIEVE!**

VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH

Humanity's greatest problems are sin and death...so Jesus gives us his same victory over sin and death...in his Resurrection...

— THE LITURGICAL CORNER



Paschal Candle: Throughout the 50 days of **Easter** the paschal candle is lit as a reminder of the presence of the risen Christ who lives and is present in and among us all. It is as large and prominent in the sanctuary space as the Resurrection is large and prominent in the life and belief of Christians. During the **Easter** season the paschal candle is such a primary focus in the liturgical environment because it speaks to us so eloquently of Jesus' risen life.

Easter Reflection on...

The Virtue of Solidarity

The virtue of solidarity is not a private feeling of empathy or friendship with people whom we know well or the poor person we happen to meet on our life's journey ... It realizes that the quality of our lives is intrinsically linked with the quality of the lives of others.

— Paul Locatelli, SJ

The quality of our lives is intrinsically linked with the quality of the lives of others. Strong words! Threatening words! Frightening words! Indeed! But at the same time, echoes of the words of Jesus as well as of two men named Francis...

What do they mean to you and to your life as a member of a family? As a member of a community of faith? As a citizen?

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

1 Timothy 2:1

LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL:



Sylvia Tasner, Fr. Vega and his brothers Albert and Jerry, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie Maziarz, and Peter Fiorito.

Tomorrow, April 27th is Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us unite our hearts in prayer for all the victims of today's holocausts in the Middle East and Africa.

My Brilliant Image

One day the sun admitted,
I am just a shadow.
I wish I could show you
The infinite incandescence
That has cast my brilliant image!
I wish I could show you,
When you are lonely or in darkness,
The Astonishing Light
Of your own Being!

— Hafiz, 14th century

There is no way to tell people that they are walking around shining like the sun!

— Thomas Merton, 20th century

JUST THINK, EASTER PEOPLE - THIS MAYBE JUST MIGHT BE TRUE! WHAT DOES IT MEAN, THEN, THIS SHINING LIGHT OF YOURS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH IT?

Francis' Gospel of the Marginalized



I urge you to serve the Church in such a way that Christians — edified by our witness — will not be tempted to turn to Jesus without turning to the outcast, to become a closed caste with nothing authentically ecclesial about

it. I urge you to serve Jesus crucified in every person who is marginalized, for whatever reason; to see the Lord in every excluded person who is hungry, thirsty, naked; to see the Lord present even in those who have lost their faith, or turned away from the practice of their faith, or say that they are atheists; to see the Lord who is imprisoned, sick, unemployed, persecuted; to see the Lord in the leper — whether in body or soul — who encounters discrimination! We will not find the Lord unless we truly accept the marginalized! Truly, the Gospel of the marginalized is where our credibility is at stake, is discovered and is revealed!”

“Nothing great was ever done without much enduring.”

—St. Catherine of Siena,
Doctor of the Church

Feast Day April 29



PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2

In this reading we hear “We are God’s children now” and so we are! What do you think the Lord is asking us to see by telling us of this great blessing his Father has bestowed on us? Could it be that we are asked to look beyond differences of religion, social status and financial success toward a true community united in familial love?

Gospel John 10:11-18

In this gospel, Jesus the Good Shepherd tells us that he has other sheep that he must call and tend to that do not yet belong to his flock. Which flock do you and I belong to? What are we being called to do so that one day there will be but “one flock and one shepherd”?