

The Work of the People

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. Hearing the Shepherd's voice, followers recognize and know it is their God. Safe in the knowledge that they cannot be taken from the hand of the Shepherd, those who hear his voice follow as faithful believers willing to go where God calls and sends them. When all the clamor of false voices and seductive distractions threatened to overwhelm, we have only to listen carefully to be led to do the work of the Father.

As we continue to follow the Acts of the Apostles, Paul and Barnabas continue to preach to the provinces, this time in Pisidia, which was part of Galatia. Uncowed by the hostile reception of the local Jews, they convert the Gentiles. Note the echoing of Simeon in the phrase "a light for the nations," drawn from Isaiah 49:6.

John's vision on the Island of Patmos continues, and now he hears of the promise of salvation. The elect of God stand in his presence and praise, with palm branches that represent victory. Representatives of all people are present. The promises of the freedom that comes in the presence of God are inspiring.

The metaphor in chapter 10 of John's Gospel is that of the Good Shepherd, which contrasts the poor shepherding provided by authorities just prior to this passage in the story of the man born blind. Here, Jesus makes promises to those who "hear [his] voice," in contrast to those who have ears but do not hear. He is God's incarnate Word, and therefore one with the Father. The "I am" language is consistent with the themes of preceding chapters.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, who is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world, and more than seventy newspapers carry his weekly column worldwide.

But how do we know which is Jesus' voice? How do we recognize the voice of Jesus inside countless websites, tweets, blogs, television channels, movies, advertisements, ideologies, and religious viewpoints?

The earliest voice that spoke to me as Jesus' voice was that of my parents. They were immigrants, economically poor, pious, Catholic, and their voice said this: Worldly success and personal

fulfillment aren't important. Christ, family, Church, duty, and self-sacrifice are. This world needn't give us happiness. We live as in a valley of tears, where all symphonies remain unfinished.

But already as a child other voices began to seep in, saying: Family, Church, and Christ are important, but so too is your happiness. Don't be so suspicious of the world. Rather, be suspicious of the Church and its timidities.

I've spent my life caught between these voices, among others. The voice of my parents eventually won out, but it isn't always so clear that their voice is everywhere identifiable with Jesus' voice and that others aren't. My parents' voice too had its faults. For all its truth and goodness, it could also be racist, narrow, and unhealthily fearful. Other voices sometimes spoke of a wider inclusiveness within which I would recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd.

So where does that leave me? With a more open ear, challenged to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd in unexpected places, to accept the truth whatever its particular cadence.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Jn. 10:1-10
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Jn. 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24; 13:5a/Jn. 12:44-50
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Jn. 13:16-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Jn. 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn. 15:9-17
 Sunday: Acts: 14:21-27/Rv. 21:1-5a/
 Jn. 13:31-33a, 34-35

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer will be observed today, Sunday, May 8, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest: (Mt. 9:38; Lk. 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to
 Bailey Allan Medvec
 on making his First Reconciliation
 last weekend.

WORSHIP

- Monday, May 9
8:00 am + Joe & Audrey Galvin
(Jerry & Betty Galvin)
- Tuesday, May 10
8:00 am + For the Repose of the Soul of
Rev. James J. Kennelley
- Wednesday, May 11
8:00 am + NO MASS
- Thursday, May 12
8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)
- Friday, May 13
8:00 am + Ron Yusavage (Jeanne Miller)
- Saturday, May 14
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners
- Sunday, May 15
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Marie Genung (Pat & Richard)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Richard Miller (Martha & Gerard Adamczyk)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

- Tuesday, May 10
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
- Saturday, May 14
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
- Sunday, May 15
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession
- Monday, May 16
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

CHANGE FOR LIFE

All the Knights of Columbus councils in Erie and Crawford Counties have come together to conduct a Baby Bottle fundraising drive to benefit the Women's Care Center of Erie's goal of purchasing a mobile ultrasound van. This medically equipped vehicle will visit rural and remote areas, as well as our five local universities, to provide valuable lifesaving services.

A totally self-contained mobile medical van is expensive, about \$250,000 before the mobile ultrasound machine is installed. If our K of C councils along with other entities and individual donors are able to raise the \$250,000, then the K of C Supreme council in Connecticut will pay the entire cost of the mobile ultrasound machine, which is approximately \$45,000.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$800.00
Maintenance	160.00
Good Shepherd	180.00
International Needs	40.00
Ascension	40.00
Candles	<u>65.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,285.00

A MOTHER'S LOVE

*There are times when only a Mother's love
can understand our tears,
can soothe our sadness and
calm all of our fears.*

*There are times when only a Mother's love
can share the joy we feel
when something we have dreamed about
quite suddenly is real.*

*There are times when only a Mother's faith
can help us on life's way
and inspire in us the confidence we need
from day to day.*

*For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
and a Mother's steadfast love
were fashioned by the Angels
and sent from God above.*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

COLLECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL NEEDS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The Collection for International Needs provides us with the opportunity to broaden our charitable horizons by reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need throughout the world.

This annual collection, to be taken up in the Diocese of Erie the weekend of May 14 and 15, is a combination of the Collection for the church in Central and Eastern Europe, the Catholic Relief Services Collection and the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. It offers a concrete way for us to help those forced to leave their homes because of war or famine, children who go to bed hungry and who cannot attend school, and immigrants and refugees seeking freedom and hope, as well as those who are persecuted for their faith and those who wish to study for the priesthood, but do not have the means to do so. The collection gives us the means to reach out to those who live in lands and cultures far from our own, from Africa to the Middle East to Eastern Europe.

I ask you to please give generously to the Collection for International Needs on May 14-15. Just as importantly, please pray for our brothers and sisters in need, especially those in war-torn areas. Be assured of my prayers for you, your families and your parishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

*"Jesus,
thank you for speaking words of mercy
that can overcome
any sin in my heart!"*

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,044.00
Maintenance	331.00
Candles	38.00
Good Shephard	301.00
Ascension	20.00
International Needs	5.00
Rice Bowl	<u>33.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,772.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$28,768 Paid: \$18,075

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
