



## The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

3 May 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter - Cuarto Domingo de Pascua

### Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world. We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

### Other announcements

- I would very much like to have a parking lot meeting with any of you that can be at the church at 1:00 pm on Wednesday 13 May. We will have some prayers and a brief discussion of how we are doing. It's important to retain our togetherness that is so absent. I miss you all very much. Please join me, join us.
- There are no birthdays or anniversaries this week.
- Mother's Day is next Sunday.
- Last Sunday, at midday, I made a proposal to our Church Council by email. It was for the authorization to purchase video equipment. By the next day the motion passed to spend about \$1150 to buy the things required to shoot video, process and edit, and deliver to a host for viewing by all of you. One item of \$300 was donated. Also \$200 was donated and another of \$50. In the end \$600 will be applied to the purchase. Your priest has volunteered to become a one-person production company. The equipment is slow to arrive due to our health crisis; some parts not arrive until 11 May. This was a show of unity that means so much to us now. Video prayer and worship services are the temporary placeholder while we wait for science to find a way to stop the virus that is upon us. Real news reports indicate that we will be standing apart and wearing facemasks for many more months.
- There will be no Mass next Sunday. Please watch your news outlets carefully. Watch real news and disregard non-news political mouthpiece shows that are not fact-based. Let us plan carefully with health and safety as our concern. Please don't join the rush to return to societal functions, but remember that there is a serious lack of virus testing. You or I just cannot be sure we are not a carrier of the virus. Statistics and procedures are changing every few days.

With regret, we move down the calendar a few more weeks while we wait for our government at federal and state levels to make the wise decisions. Let us look at late May or early June as a possibility to resume, and only with the certainty that we will be safe from spreading the virus.

We will watch the news carefully and evaluate the safety of our church gathering. Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date.

I invite your comment by email to [michael@spcath.org](mailto:michael@spcath.org) . Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date.

Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>



In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.



### We pray

*Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola*

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,  
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.  
All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:  
I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.  
Give me only Your love and Your grace;  
with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.  
† Amen

### Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



### Collect

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel John 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."



## Homily

This is the fourth Sunday of Easter. Our readings, all three, are from the New Testament. The Old Testament has little to offer on the building of Christianity except for prophecies of the future. So for several weeks we won't hear much from the Old Testament.

Today's readings are filled with words that go with sheep. Shepherd, flock, lamb, sheep.

How come all the readings are from the New Testament? Remember that this is Eastertide. We expand the message of the death of Jesus and his resurrection to fifty days; to worship and teach and learn and re-learn about the most significant event in Christian history.

The Easter season of the liturgical year is all about building the Christian ministry after the life of Christ, the devotion to the task, and the extensive work done by the Apostles.

The mission by ministers and teachers of the Word is to remind you that you have the same task as the apostles – to proclaim the Good News and emulate your faith to all people.

When Jesus speaks of his sheep and his flock, he certainly wasn't referring to the faithful as dumb defenseless animals that needed shepherds and dogs to keep them together... that they were weak timid beasts that needed to be defended from predators.

or... maybe he was...

Perhaps we are the sheep... we are somewhat defenseless against the devil and the temptation that causes us sin against the commandments of God.

As a group, most of us humans commit many sins and act like not-so-smart sheep. We keep doing those things over and over in life. We sometimes run with the pack ( the flock ) and do things that our friends and peers do, knowing that it's incorrect behavior.



What have you done in your life that caused your parents to ask...

“why did you do that?”

... and your answer was...

“because all my friends were doing it.”

Peer pressure is an awesome force. Acceptance among friends is so valuable to us and especially to young people whose emotions and hormones are all over the place. It's hard to be a young person now, harder than it was for us as kids. Today is a global world, full of electronic wonders that enable kids to see and hear what's beyond the home they live in, the school they attend as a local group, and the playgrounds or places young people hang out at.



Kids of today are very advanced sheep. They can have friends on a global scale... they can talk to them and see their faces; on phones or computers... talk all day long if they want to.

Peer pressure and running with the group causes them to do new wild things. Expensive things that cost parents money. First for those electronic gadgets and good technology which is good for them. Others, not-good expenses; like lawyers and court costs and fines and restitutions for their bad choices and bad behavior. By the way... old kids do those things too.

Parents need to be a different kind of shepherd. If you are a parent (and sometimes a grandparent that does a lot of parenting stuff)... you should talk with and share strategy with other parents and shepherds that are more informed. Get some advice when your sheep make you crazy. Ask some old shepherds like us for advice.

Jesus as our shepherd was the best and most devoted shepherd that there ever was. So devoted was he that he died for a cause. He gave everything to the job before him.

Now let's change our perspective for a moment. The role of Jesus Christ as the lamb. In the time of Christ and thousands of years prior to that... the sacrifice of animals to God was a very common religious practice. Not just to God, our God, but to the many gods of the many people who lived throughout history; who had not yet found the truth.

Jesus was sacrificed to God by humans. He died for our sins. He was the lamb of God. Lambs are the babies of the sheep world. They are not offensive to other sheep in the field. They are without defense.

Jesus was not offensive... he was the Lamb of God. But those who would condemn him, took his words and made themselves offended. These persecutors ran with a different group of sheep, the flock tended by a bad shepherd. (That would be the peer pressure I mentioned).

They didn't listen to the message of Jesus and they were change-resistant to the voice of a stranger. They followed the false shepherd; the bad shepherd. Their goal was not to sacrifice Jesus for worship, but to remove him... to dispose of their problem.

Now, back to Jesus as the shepherd...

God gave us to Jesus.

We know our Shepherd and we've been baptized into the Holy Spirit.

Words for you to think about this week. Listen and hear the Lord calling you...

"... and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out... he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."



## Evangelio Juan 10:1-10

Entonces Jesús dijo: «Les aseguro que el que no entra en el redil de las ovejas por la puerta es un ladrón y un bandido. Pero el que entra por la puerta es el pastor que cuida las ovejas. El portero le abre la puerta, y el pastor llama a cada oveja por su nombre, y las ovejas reconocen su voz; las saca del redil, y cuando ya han salido todas, camina delante de ellas, y las ovejas lo siguen porque reconocen su voz. En cambio, a un desconocido no lo siguen, sino que huyen de él, porque desconocen su voz.» Jesús les puso esta comparación, pero ellos no entendieron lo que les quería decir. Jesús volvió a decirles: «Esto les aseguro: Yo soy la puerta por donde pasan las ovejas. Todos los que vinieron antes de mí, fueron unos ladrones y unos bandidos; pero las ovejas no les hicieron caso. Yo soy la puerta: el que por mí entre, se salvará. Será como una oveja que entra y sale y encuentra pastos.» El ladrón viene solamente para robar, matar y destruir; pero yo he venido para que tengan vida, y para que la tengan en abundancia.»



### Homilía

Este es el cuarto domingo de Pascua. Nuestras lecturas, las tres, son del Nuevo Testamento. El Antiguo Testamento tiene poco que ofrecer sobre la construcción del cristianismo, excepto las profecías del futuro. Así que durante varias semanas no escucharemos mucho del Antiguo Testamento.

Las lecturas de hoy están llenas de palabras que van con ovejas. Pastor, rebaño, cordero, oveja.

¿Cómo es que todas las lecturas son del Nuevo Testamento? Recuerda que esto es Eastertide. Ampliamos el mensaje de la muerte de Jesús y su resurrección a cincuenta días; para adorar y enseñar y aprender y reaprender sobre el evento más significativo en la historia cristiana.



La temporada de Pascua del año litúrgico se trata de construir el ministerio cristiano después de la vida de Cristo, la devoción a la tarea y el extenso trabajo realizado por los Apóstoles.

La misión de los ministros y maestros de la Palabra es recordarles que tienen la misma tarea que los apóstoles: proclamar las Buenas Nuevas y emular su fe a todas las personas.

Cuando Jesús habla de sus ovejas y su rebaño, ciertamente no se refería a los fieles como animales tontos e indefensos que necesitaban pastores y perros para mantenerlos juntos ... que eran bestias débiles y tímidas que debían defenderse de los depredadores.

o ... tal vez estaba ...

Quizás somos las ovejas ... estamos algo indefensos contra el diablo y la tentación que nos hace pecar contra los mandamientos de Dios.

Como grupo, la mayoría de nosotros los humanos cometemos muchos pecados y actuamos como ovejas no tan inteligentes. Seguimos haciendo esas cosas una y otra vez en la vida. A veces corremos con la manada (la bandada) y hacemos cosas que hacen nuestros amigos y compañeros, sabiendo que es un comportamiento incorrecto.

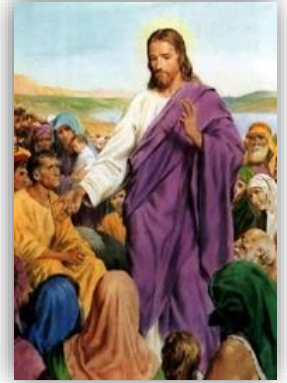
¿Qué has hecho en tu vida que hizo que tus padres preguntaran ...

"¿Por qué hiciste eso?"

... y tu respuesta fue ...

"Porque todos mis amigos lo estaban haciendo".

La presión de grupo es una fuerza asombrosa. La aceptación entre amigos es muy valiosa para nosotros y especialmente para los jóvenes cuyas emociones y hormonas están por todas partes. Es difícil ser una persona joven ahora, más difícil de lo que fue para nosotros cuando éramos niños. Hoy es un mundo global, lleno de maravillas electrónicas que permiten a los niños ver y escuchar lo que está más allá del hogar en el que viven, la escuela a la que asisten como grupo local y los patios de recreo o lugares donde los jóvenes pasan el rato.



Los niños de hoy son ovejas muy avanzadas. Pueden tener amigos a escala mundial ... pueden hablar con ellos y ver sus caras; en teléfonos o computadoras ... hablen todo el día si lo desean.

La presión de grupo y correr con el grupo hace que hagan cosas nuevas y salvajes. Cosas caras que cuestan dinero a los padres. Primero para esos aparatos electrónicos y la buena tecnología que es buena para ellos. Otros, gastos no buenos; como abogados y costos judiciales y multas y restituciones por sus malas decisiones y su mal comportamiento. Por cierto ... los niños mayores también hacen esas cosas.

Los padres deben ser un tipo diferente de pastor. Si usted es un padre (y a veces un abuelo que hace muchas cosas de crianza) ... debe hablar y compartir estrategias con otros padres y pastores que estén más informados. Obtén algunos consejos cuando tus ovejas te vuelvan loco. Pide consejo a algunos pastores viejos como nosotros.

Jesús como nuestro pastor fue el mejor y más devoto pastor que haya existido. Tan devoto era él que murió por una causa. Dio todo al trabajo que tenía delante.

Ahora cambiemos nuestra perspectiva por un momento. El papel de Jesucristo como el cordero. En el tiempo de Cristo y miles de años antes de eso ... el sacrificio de animales a Dios era una práctica religiosa muy común. No solo para Dios, nuestro Dios, sino para los muchos dioses de las muchas personas que vivieron a lo largo de la historia; quien aún no había encontrado la verdad.

Jesús fue sacrificado a Dios por los humanos. El murió por nuestros pecados. El era el cordero de Dios. Los corderos son los bebés del mundo de las ovejas. No son ofensivos para otras ovejas en el campo. Están sin defensa.

Jesús no fue ofensivo ... él era el Cordero de Dios. Pero aquellos que lo condenarían, tomaron sus palabras y se ofendieron. Estos perseguidores corrieron con un grupo diferente de ovejas, el rebaño atendido por un mal pastor. (Esa sería la presión de grupo que mencioné).

No escucharon el mensaje de Jesús y fueron resistentes a los cambios a la voz de un extraño. Siguieron al falso pastor; El mal pastor. Su objetivo no era sacrificar a Jesús para adorar, sino eliminarlo ... para deshacerse de su problema.

Ahora, de vuelta a Jesús como el pastor ...

Dios nos dio a Jesús.

Conocemos a nuestro Pastor y hemos sido bautizados en el Espíritu Santo.

Palabras para que pienses esta semana. Escucha y escucha al Señor llamándote ...

"... y las ovejas oyen su voz. Él llama a sus propias ovejas por su nombre y las saca ... se adelanta a ellas, y las ovejas lo siguen porque conocen su voz".

