

May 6-7, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14-41

First Peter 2:20-15

John 10:1-10

Contrary to historical prejudices, sheep are not stupid. Indeed, sheep have been witnessed in rural England foiling the 'cattle guard' grates in roads (meant to prevent cattle from crossing by having a series of 'grates' that inhibit their hooves from gaining a firm hold) by folding their legs close to their bodies and rolling over the grates! With that in mind, this weekend is GOOD SHEPHERD Sunday when Jesus, speaking prior to the crucifixion and resurrection events, portrays himself as the Good Shepherd who calls his sheep by name and leads them to safe pasture. Knowing there are many voices, vices and temptations that can allure the sheep to follow robbers and thieves, Jesus reminds us that we are interiorly 'programmed' to hear his voice and attune ourselves to follow him...not to cruelly control or dominate us but so that we 'might have life and have it more abundantly.' In our world of countless options, choices and perversities, every imaginable detriment to our humanity is LOUD, VIBRANT and ENTICING. Contrarily, the voice of Jesus is magnified NOT by being LOUDER than the rest but rather by quiet humility, gentleness of spirit and abundant mercy and compassion...qualities that make a long-term difference in people's lives as opposed to the flash in the pan cheap highs abundantly available within our culture. Four weeks into pondering the mystery of the empty tomb of Easter, these are suitable days to ponder the quality of our lives and whether our choices have resulted in the results for which we hoped? As the saying goes, 'All that glitters is not gold...' and this is certainly true for most of the hyped toys and pursuits available within our Land of Gracious Living. Smart sheep that we are, what have been the 'fool's gold sparkly things' for which we have lusted and how has that turned out for us? Are we perhaps ready to follow our Good Shepherd toward real food and real life?

Another brilliant Spring weekend, thank you for sharing your time and spirit with our Santa Clara community. At our 12noon Mass this weekend we celebrate the reception of First Eucharist by a WHOLE BUNCH of our children with the next First Eucharist Mass occurring at 12noon on May 21st. Your kindness and charity to the families participating will be an extra blessing for them today and again on the 21st. Next weekend being Mother's Day, this is the final opportunity to enroll your Moms, living or deceased, in our special series of May Masses using the envelopes available at the exits. As mentioned last week, we accept a Second SPECIAL COLLECTION this weekend to benefit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., thanks for your generosity. In the midst of the many May events demanding countless slivers of your time, please remember that you are loved. FKB