

Fourth Sunday of Easter 4-29-18

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd from the Father whose commission is tend to the flock of the Father. In today's Gospel, He claims His title in few words "I am the Good Shepherd... I know my sheep and my sheep know me and they follow me." Today's scriptures present at least five characters; the sheep owner, the shepherds, the individual sheep, the flock and the other flock which does not belong to this fold. The Lord Himself claims to be the Good Shepherd which He has satisfactorily demonstrated. He calls on other ministers, both spiritual and temporal, to be conscientious in caring for the Lord's flock because each shepherd will render an account of the flock assigned to him. Learning from Moses, we all know the difficulty associated with serving God and His people. So, let us first pray that the Good Lord may bless His shepherds with patience, docility, faith and satisfaction in their daily ministries. For unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain (Ps 127:1).

Second, the Lord created each person uniquely in His image and likeness. No one is the measure of goodness except Christ Himself. Therefore, each one of us has the responsibility not to endanger the whole flock by his or her lifestyle and choices. The only way of not attracting the wolf and other carnivorous animals is to know, trust and cling to the Shepherd. It will also be safe to stay with the fold. It is good to know that the shepherd is responsible for all the flock. N However, each one of us in this sheepfold will answer to the Lord on how we cared for the weak and the sick among us. It is important we remember that God's love for us must be reciprocated and reflect in our relationship with one-another.

The truth is that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows, loves and cares for His people. He already proved this by laying down His life for His Church, so that all may know that He is our Buckler and Shield. For "there is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved". (Acts 4:12)

So beloved friends, let us be conscious of the saving power of Christ. Let us be aware of His abiding merciful love. In all these, and to be alert to claim our salvation, we must always review our relationship with the Lord and the sheepfold by asking;

"Am I a good member of His fold, do I hear His voice and always follow His lead???"

God bless you!