

4th Sunday Easter 2019

It is said: 'God gave the world stars and there was beauty; God gave the world sun and there was warmth. God gave the world rain and there was life. God gave the world mothers and there was love!' God is the ground of all love and he gave us his Son, Jesus Christ, the good shepherd, to nourish us in the pastures of love. Jesus uses the imagery of the good shepherd to explain his relationship with us. Jesus says: my sheep hears my voice and follow me! What are the voices we hear and respond: voices of anger, disappointments vengeance, threat, division etc? Negative voices often torment the human mind! Voice of Christ is an invitation, to be with, to remain in Christ, a relationship that can be known only in love. We have the image of both an angry and merciful God, in the Old Testament books. [God's anger is about disapproval of sin, about justice]. The violence, sin in human hearts cannot have anything to do with God. On the cross we see a God ready to embrace the sinner, the lost sheep, no anger but love that forgives and saves. Good shepherd invites us to change our life by standing beneath the flow of love from the pierced heart of Christ. Voice of Christ/presence persuades us to judge ourselves, and discover truth, goodness, love and beauty! These are the nature of God and we are called to discover truth, goodness, beauty and love in our relationship with God and one another!

How do we respond to the voice of the good shepherd in the gospel, in the eucharist, inviting us to fellowship and unity in the family and in the church? We have a disconnected, ill world that finds glory in chaos, murder and destruction. What is happening to love of neighbor, loving even enemies? Paul says, parts of the body cannot act in a disconnected way, if they do, that would ruin the body. Each of us has gifts to build fellowship and unity in the church, the body of Christ. Good shepherd entrusted us his church his ministry to seek the lost, tend the wounded and feed the hungry and bring all to unity and fellowship, that Christ may be all in all! This mission is to all creation, that by us, whose life is transformed by faith, all may hear the good news, voice of the good shepherd! Bring our brokenness, confusion, unhappiness to the healing presence of the good shepherd and allow the Spirit to create the mind of Christ in us! Stop running around and come home to the good shepherd, listen to his voice, choose his way and walk with him!

Reflection on Mothers' day by Sr. Joyce. R: 'O mothers, one and all, some of you have carried your children in your womb. Others of you have welcomed babes in need of your attention who came to you from another birth mother. May the love you have poured forth return to you in plenty. O mothers, do not live in regret of what you wished you would have done or what you did do and wished you had not. As you look back on your mothering, may you remember that you tried to do your best. O mothers, do not forget to care for yourself. find what enriches and gladdens your heart. O mothers, you who have gone on to eternal home, we welcome our memories of you, how much you mean to us. May the peace you now have flow into the weary and troubled hearts of mothers everywhere'. O mothers, we call today on the good shepherd to draw you to his loving heart. May you know his comfort, peace and tender embrace. May you always hear the loving voice of the good shepherd humming in you!

