

Homily for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, 2025 (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we reflect on the image of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes this declaration, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." These words reveal how deep the love of Christ is love and His willingness to sacrifice everything for us.

Why "Good Shepherd?" This is because sometime before Him, the people of Israel used to have what I can call bad shepherds, those that Jesus calls wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15), those who lead the sheep astray.

According to the words of Jesus, a shepherd's role is more than just guiding a flock. A true shepherd protects, nurtures, seeks out the lost and never abandons the sheep in danger. This is who Jesus is, the Good Shepherd, who never leaves His flock. He knows each of us by name, loves us personally, and leads us with unwavering care.

Therefore, dear brothers and Sisters: are we truly listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd? This is very challenging, because we are now in a world filled with distractions and competing voices, it can be easy to stray or follow paths that lead us away from His grace. We need more grace, more light so that we can discern and recognize His Voice among the many voices around us, or even the many voices making noise in our hearts...there are some people who are almost always distracted... (absent minded).

However, there is hope, because Jesus continues to call us, through Scripture, through Prayer, through the Church, inviting us to walk in the light of His love.

As followers of Christ, we are also called to reflect the heart of the Good Shepherd. We are invited to care for others [with the first homicide in the History of humanity, ..., the question of God was "where is your brother? And the answer was "am I my brother's shepherd? We do not need to give such answers, but to care of our brothers and sisters], to bring back the lost, to be sources of comfort and encouragement in our families, communities, and workplaces. Whether we are parents guiding children, friends supporting one another, or leaders serving with integrity, we can live out the example of Jesus, offering love and mercy to those around us.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, let us renew our trust in Christ, knowing that He walks with us and never abandons us. May we strive to hear His voice, follow His path, and live as faithful members of His flock. And may we share His love with those in need, knowing that His Mercy is endless and His embrace is everlasting.

To all our mothers, "Happy mothers' day! Mothers' day is a beautiful time to honor our mothers, not only them, but also our grandmothers. Those who have nurtured generations with wisdom and love. Their legacy still lives in all of us. Happy mothers' day. You are the bearers of all that is life, you are care takers of our lives. May God bless you abundantly!

Amen.