

Jesus said: "I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

My brothers and sisters,

This 4th Sunday of Easter is referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. This designation is due to the Gospel readings we hear each year on this 4th Sunday of Easter, the story of Jesus being the Good Shepherd.

We all need a shepherd in our life, someone that is going to lead us and guide us. I must say that there are many, many people that are willing to be a guide for us. There are those in our world that want us to follow them. Not all of these shepherds though are really looking out for our best interest. They often want us to follow them, but don't really care about what happens to us, especially if something threatens the sheep. These hireling shepherds will leave us high and dry.

Yet, our Gospel reminds us today that there is indeed a Good Shepherd in our world and that Good Shepherd is Jesus. He was sent by our Father in heaven to journey with us and guide us. Unlike the others in our world that want us to follow them, He will be with us no matter what. When storms arise or we are under attack, Jesus is there as the Good Shepherd, leading us to safety. Covering us in the storm, He lays down His life, so that we may be safe.

May the Good Shepherd watch over this flock, keeping us safe and giving us the example of how we can be Good Shepherds to the flock that have been put into our care.

In Easter Joy!

Fr. James