

# **The Fourth Sunday of Easter May 7th 2017**

## **Theme: The Shepherd**

### **Introduction**

**Today is called Good Shepherd Sunday. Every year on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Gospel comes from the thirteenth chapter of St. John's Gospel where the Lord speaks of Himself as a shepherd.**

### **SOUNDS**

**The challenge facing us followers of Jesus today is to listen for the Master's voice in the middle of competing voices and sounds demanding our attention, conflicting noises assaulting our senses and dissonant messages loudly challenging our beliefs , values and loyalties . What voices are we accustomed to hear?**

**Today we hear the powerful sounds of extremism from many sides in the Middle East , the sounds of terrorism that try to justify their atrocities , the sounds of amorality heard on so many television programs , the sounds of scandal that comes**

**from places in the church we never expected , and the sounds of those who seek to capitalize on the scandals of the sanctuary.**

**Have these voices always been around? Of Course. But in the middle of all this noise there is also the voice of the Good Shepherd speaking to us through his Word and his Church. The voice of the Good Shepherd calls us to a deeper, more honest and more spiritual and productive life. The Lord calls us to live with dignity in the image of God in which we were all created. Every week the Lord calls us to conversion, to re-orient our life, to experience redemption, forgiveness and new life.**

**The question for us is not what voices are speaking or whether they should be there. Rather what voices are we really listening to? What words and values are filling our ears and minds? Are we listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd? Or to other voices on cable, talk radio and newspapers. Which voices are really guiding our life?**

**We may see in the events of recent past years a call to renew our life as a Church. Out of tragic events of scandal can come more than just endless analysis and recrimination, but instead a recommitment to Christ and to renewing the Church. That commitment shows when we live the Gospel and take its truth to where we work and when we support and take part in the work of our parish church in any way we can.**

*In the middle of so much noise and so many voices today we need to do what we can to turn up the volume and amplify the voice of the Good Shepherd . We and our world need to hear "the Master's voice"  
AMEN.*

*All comments and suggestions are*  
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