

Fourth Sunday of Easter

One rainy morning, The mother went for her daily run. As she returned to the house, she slipped and fell, hitting her head on the driveway. The son called the paramedics. When they arrived, they asked my mom some questions to determine her coherency. "What is today?" inquired one man. Without hesitation, Mom replied, "Trash day."

Dear Friends,

I wish you a Happy Mother's Day. This is a day to admit gratefully the fact that none of us is able to return, in the same measure, all the love that our mothers have given us. Their influence on their children is so great that it affects the children throughout their lives. Our mothers not only gave us birth but nursed us, nurtured us, trained us in their religious beliefs and practices, taught us good manners and ideal behavior, disciplined us as best as they could, and made us good citizens of our country, our Church, and our society. There is a beautiful Spanish proverb: "An ounce of mother is better than a pound of clergy." Hence, it is highly important for us to express our love and gratitude to our mothers by our presence (if possible), gifts, and prayers on Mother's Day. We hope and pray that all the mothers are honored today and every day for their dedicated love and sacrifice to their families and children.

Today we remember Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also remembered as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Bishop Ricken asked us to share with you: "I have some difficult news to share with you. And some challenging news. In a recent study, the Diocese of Green Bay has received a very poor ranking for the number of seminarians and the number of ordinations to the priesthood we have every year. We have been averaging one to two ordinations to the priesthood in recent years and this national study says that, given our Catholic population, we should be ordaining at least three men to the priesthood every year. We have been placed as a Diocese in the "unhealthy" category. "Today let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life."

The readings today ask us to be a good shepherd. In the Gospel, Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice; I know them." This is one of the most comforting words in the scripture. God knows you and me and those who are not here. He hears our voice. God's love is with us. He never hates anyone and shows no indifference. As a good shepherd, he guides and leads the way for us and encourages us to be good shepherds. We need to become good disciples and shepherds of Jesus Christ. God loves us and has trust in us. In return, we need to love him back and trust him totally. That's how you know him.

I hope you also notice when you drive on the highways the signs that says: "LEAD, FOLLOW, or KEEP MOVING TO THE SIDE". It gives us a lesson through our scripture today. Let us be a good shepherd, leading in people, if you feel like you can lead; or follow someone closely, who already has some connections with Jesus. Let us share the same love everywhere. Pope Francis, in his Angelus, on Good Shepherd Sunday shared this, "Christ's love is not selective; it embraces everyone. He himself reminds us of this in the Gospel when he says: 'And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So, there shall be one flock, one shepherd'" ([Jn 10:16](#)). These words testify to his universal concern: He is everyone's shepherd. Jesus wants everyone to be able to receive the Father's love and encounter God."

As mothers, it is going to be your main duty to promote vocations in your families. If you pray hard enough to bring vocations, it will happen.

So let us be a Good Shepherd in loving and caring for one another.