



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

952-941-3150 • www.paxchristi.com • The Fourth Sunday of Easter • Week of April 22, 2018

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Written by Fr. Marc Paveglio, Parochial Vicar

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is often called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because we always hear Jesus speak of the *shepherd* and the *sheep*: "...the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice, but they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers" (Jn 10:4-5). Jesus speaks this enduring parable in the tenth chapter of John's gospel. It immediately follows a confrontation with the Pharisees who are enraged over His healing of the blind man.

How interesting that Jesus speaks of following a voice the moment after He heals a man who is *blind*! The man born blind could not see his own way forward. He always had to depend upon the *voice* of another to lead him. But when he meets Jesus, he hears a voice unlike any other. He obeys this gentle voice and, in doing so, he is healed. When he follows the voice of the Good Shepherd, his life changes forever. He had never before seen light, color, or shape—a whole new world opened up to him.

Jesus desires to do the same for us. He is our Good Shepherd. We are created to hear and obey His voice leading us to life. Jesus opens up a whole new world to us—the Kingdom of God, where love unites us together in every kind of light, color, and shape never dreamt of before.

Good Shepherd Sunday also marks this year's *World Day of Vocations*, when the Church concentrates her attention on vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Pope Francis begins his message for this celebration with the following:

*Even amid these troubled times, the mystery of the Incarnation reminds us that God continually comes to encounter us. He is God-with-us, who walks along the often dusty paths of our lives. He knows our anxious longing for love and he calls us to joy. In the diversity and the uniqueness of each and every vocation, personal and ecclesial, there is a need to **listen, discern, and live** this word that calls to us from on high...*

LISTENING – DISCERNING – LIVING. As I look back on my own journey to become a priest in the image of the Good Shepherd, I can see the Spirit of God moving in each of these three stages. First was the **listening**. What are you saying, Lord? What do you want me to do with my life? I made time to pray in silence—lots of time. The Lord made me wait quite a while until He began to unveil His plans for me. Then when He finally began to speak, I was amazed and afraid. I was overjoyed at the possibility of this calling, yet I had so many questions.

Listening then became **discerning**. Is this really Your will? Am I hearing you rightly? I began to consider the things He was asking me to sacrifice. I started to count the cost. I carefully considered the blessings and challenges. I also embraced the fact that just because I felt called to be a priest did not mean it was actually so. In a marriage proposal, both the bride and groom must say yes. The consent of two is required. A call to priesthood is the same. Both the man *and the Church* must say yes. While in seminary I felt confident in my call, but I submitted to the judgment and discernment of those responsible for my formation. Ultimately the bishop, a successor to the apostles, completes the discernment of the Church.

Finally, there is **living** the vocation, something that never ceases. I am happier for each year of priestly ordination I celebrate. I love this adventure with Christ. It was truly discovering a treasure—not something I was looking for, but a gift given to me. Halfway through seminary I was driving from Maryland to Pennsylvania in my Pontiac Bonneville. I remember saying to Jesus with watery eyes, "Of all the people in the world, why me? Certainly, there are better choices. Why would you pick me?" He said, "Because I love you. That is why."

A priest's life is one of constant service to others. My priesthood is not for myself. If the Good Shepherd laid down His life for His flock, should not every priest? Indeed, some priests of every age have paid the price in imitation of the Master. But every priest is called to bear the cross with and for God's people. Sometimes that is seen; sometimes it is invisible.

Let us pray this weekend for all those in our parish who are called to priesthood or consecrated life. May God give them the grace to hear His voice and trust in His love. To any young men or women reading this—be not afraid of Christ's call! His love will be enough for this journey. Please come speak to me, email me, call me—and we will walk this road together. Happy Easter!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARISHIONERS' ART EXHIBIT

Continues THROUGH May 13

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION

Continues THROUGH May 21, Mondays, 5:30pm, FAMILY OF CHRIST, Chan.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP DAY

Sunday, April 22, 12:30-4:00pm, Lunch in Room 212 RSVP

BOOMERS AND BEYOND SPRING RETREAT

Tuesday, May 8, 9:00am, \$15 RSVP

SOULCOLLAGE® – OPEN CARD MAKING SESSION

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30-8:30pm RSVP

TWELVE BASKETS BABY SHOWER DRIVE

Weekend of May 12/13

MORNING OF REFLECTION WITH FATHER MARC

Sunday, May 13, 10:00-11:00am in Room 212

MEMORIAL DAY MASS

Monday, May 28, 9:00am

SR HIGH SERVICE/ JUSTICE TRIP

Week of June 24-30, Chicago, IL, Fee of \$250 RSVP

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 23-27, 9:00am-12:00pm, Ages 3 – 5TH GRADE YOUTH RSVP

DRAMA CAMP

July 23-27, 9:00am-3:00pm, 6TH – 8TH GRADE YOUTH RSVP

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE CAMP

July 23-27, 8:30am-4:00pm RSVP

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE LOVED ONES:

Fred, Michelle, Carol, Kari, Diane, Katherine, Sherry, Jim, Pam, Bill, Scott, Ryan, S.U., and Kathleen.

Pax Christi offers, as a community, the gift of prayer. If you would like to have your name listed in this Prayer Corner during a time of need, contact Pastoral Care, 952-941-3150.

Friendship

Service

Support

Educational

Social

Prayer

Caring

Activities

BOOMERS & BEYOND

PAX CHRISTI SENIOR MINISTRY

Sign-up at www.paxchristi.com/boomers to receive info on upcoming events.

Upcoming events include:

May 4: First Friday Coffee and Conversation

May 8: Annual Boomer Retreat at St. Edward's, Bloomington

May 17: Third Annual Senior Resource Fair

Event information available at paxchristi.com!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, April 23

8:30am MASS

5:00pm Tai Chi

6:00pm Scout Pack 348

6:30pm JustFaith

6:30pm Justice Grants Board Mtg.

7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 370

Tuesday, April 24

8:30am MASS

9:00am Rosary Group

2:30pm Chair Yoga

6:00pm 50+ Basketball

6:30pm Making Sense of the Bible

Wednesday, April 25

9:30am Mom's ROCK

11:00am Tai Chi

4:45pm Godly Play

4:45pm Finding God

4:45pm Middle School FF

6:00pm MASS

6:30pm Justice Grants Board Mtg.

6:30pm Godly Play

6:30pm Finding God

6:30pm High School FF

6:30pm RCIA Service Project

7:30pm Confirmation Rehearsal

Thursday, April 26

8:30am MASS

9:00am Centering Prayer

6:00pm Pax Christi Basketball

6:00pm Stewardship Committee Mtg.

7:00pm Alanon

7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

7:30pm Music Ministry Rehearsal

Friday, April 27

8:30am MASS

Saturday, April 28

8:00am Spring Clean-up Event

9:00am Women's AA Group

9:00am Overeater's Anonymous

9:00am VIRTUS Training

4:00pm Private Reconciliation

5:00pm 500 Card Club Warm-Up Night

5:00pm MASS - FR. PAVEGLIO

Sunday, April 29

HOSPITALITY FOLLOWING MORNING MASSES

9:00am MASS - FR. PAVEGLIO

9:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:00am G.I.F.T. Married Couples Group

11:00am MASS - FR. MURTAUGH

11:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word

12:30pm Adopt-A-Highway Event

3:30pm Teen Choir

5:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH

5:00pm Children's Liturgy of the Word

6:00pm Sunday Evening Meal

6:30pm Good Shepherd I & II

6:30pm Godly Play

6:30pm Finding God

6:30pm Middle School FF

6:30pm High School FF

6:30pm Exploring Migration

6:30pm Married Couples Group

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND EVENT

REGISTRATION AT

WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM



Week #41 Contributions

This Year
Actual

32,510

This Year
Budget

25,000

Variance from
Budget

7,510

Last Year
Actual

2,263,709

Variance from
Last Year

174,156

YTD through Week #41

2,437,865

2,241,000

196,865

17-18 Contributions Goal – \$2,785,000

EFT and credit card giving available. Visit www.paxchristi.com for more information.