

4th Sunday of Easter



We come together each week united in the saving hope of Jesus Christ, our Shepherd. In his name, we have been saved and offered new life. Addiction recovery provides a tangible way to measure what our lives were like before surrendering to Christ, what happened, and what our lives are like now. Sharing this good news has been the foundation of twelve step groups since their inception in the 1930s and has been a primary source of healing what used to be considered a hopeless condition—addiction.

“The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone,” is heard in both our First Reading and Responsorial Psalm as we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter this week. What used to be driving our demise—our relentless, lustful behavior and the pursuit of unhealthy sexual attachments—has been resurrected as our source of faith in the Shepherd who lays down his life for us.

The Good Shepherd knows the voices of his sheep. He knows them individually in their distinctiveness and uniqueness, and he can pick us out of a crowd. He hears our prayers and calls out to us in a way that we take notice. Jesus Christ is not just a moral standard for conducting ourselves, but is our Lord who knows us intimately. We call out to God and He hears our cry, knowing our specific pains and desires before we can even acknowledge them ourselves.

We hear from the tenth chapter of John’s Gospel this week:

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

A hired man, who is not a shepherd

and whose sheep are not his own,

sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,

and the wolf catches and scatters them.

This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd,

and I know mine and mine know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

FYZWjcb Ei Yghcbg

Christ, our Shepherd, heals and gives us the authority to heal each other. In the same way modern recovery groups grew from one addict helping another, the first century Church was comprised of those who witnessed the healing power of Jesus Christ and were willing to spread it to all corners of the world. In our resurrected form, we are called to do the same while remaining obedient to the word of our Shepherd.

Let us not forget the source of our freedom and new life. We can offer gratitude for the efforts of those who established modern recovery and for the courageous faith of the first disciples of Jesus. We walk with those disciples throughout the season of Easter as we include the Acts of the Apostles in our daily and Sunday mass readings. This week we hear:

*Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said:
"Leaders of the people and elders:
If we are being examined today
about a good deed done to a cripple,
namely, by what means he was saved,
then all of you and all the people of Israel should
know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ
the Nazorean whom you crucified,
whom God raised from the dead;
in his name this man stands before you healed. He
is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has
become the cornerstone.
There is no salvation through anyone else,
nor is there any other name under heaven
given to the human race by which we are to be
saved."*

- How has Jesus taken on the role of Good Shepherd in your life?
- How do you share hope with others?
- What are you grateful for?

CIR Rosary Every Saturday

Join fellow CIR community members every Saturday to pray the Rosary at 11:00 AM ET/8:00 AM PT via Zoom. You can join the Rosary gathering by using the following login information:

Meeting ID: 914 1234 2605 | Password: 121212
Dial in: (669) 900-6833

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Responsorial Psalm: 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

2nd Reading: 1 John 1:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18