

Year of
Consecrated Life



19 July 2015

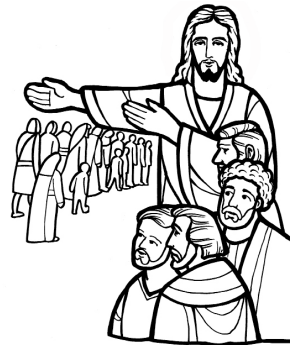
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

Instruments of God's Shepherding Love

Jesus is the perfect model of the good shepherd who is constantly bent on seeking the good of his flock. All his attention, his time, his resources are at their service. Full of compassion and understanding for their needs, he nourishes them with his care and his word, unmindful of his own needs.

The shepherds of the Church and all those who have the task to care for others cannot be different. Chosen and empowered to carry out the role of the Divine Shepherd, they are expected to imitate the Master, in a constant effort to overcome their own weaknesses and limitations and bring about the good of those entrusted to their care. In this Mass, let us remember them in a special manner.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

**See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with
willing heart, and praise your
name, O Lord, for it is good.**

Greeting

P—Blessed be Jesus, the merciful shepherd who gave his life for his sheep. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All—And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P—Coming together as God's family, let us ask ourselves if we are service-minded people as the Lord wants us to be. *(Pause)*

P—Lord Jesus, you are the Servant of the Father and all mankind. Lord, have mercy!

All—Lord, have mercy!

P—Lord Jesus, you gave your life for the salvation of all.

Christ, have mercy!
All—Christ, have mercy!

P—Lord Jesus, you want your disciples to be at the service of all. Lord, have mercy!

All—Lord, have mercy!

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen!

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the

glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect *(Opening Prayer)*

P—Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Jer 23:1-6

Throughout the centuries the Lord gave to some individuals the task of shepherding His people. Often, however, these "shepherds" pastured themselves rather than their flock. This is how the Lord reacted to their misbehavior.

R—A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

“Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture,” says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: “You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.

I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing,” says the Lord.

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land.

In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: ‘The Lord, our justice.’”

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23

R —The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want!

R. M. Velez



* The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. R.

* He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at

my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage. R.

* You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. R.

* Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come. R.

2nd Reading Eph 2:13-18

St. Paul presents Jesus as the great “Peacemaker” and the one that unites Jews and pagans into the new people of God.

R —A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: In Christ Jesus you, who once were far off, have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

“My sheep hear my voice,” says the Lord;

“I know them, and they follow me.”

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 6:30-34

Jesus' concern for the well-being of his disciples and for the vast crowd of people who had walked long miles to listen to him showed what a caring person he was. His shepherd's love is a shining example for all of us.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

The Gospel of the Lord!

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit it was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come

again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –We are all members of the flock of Christ, and some of us share in his leadership role. Let us pray for all those called to shepherd their brothers and sisters as we say:

All—Divine Good Shepherd, hear us!

C –For all the Church leaders: May they always be mindful of their duty to promote the spiritual welfare of the faithful, let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the civil leaders of our country: May they treasure honesty and selflessness in the fulfillment of their duty to promote justice and peace, let us pray! **R.**

C –For all parents, teachers, and other people in authority: May they be attentive to the needs of their children, students and subjects as representatives of God, the Divine Shepherd of all, let us pray! **R.**

C –For doctors, social workers, and all those who are responsible for the welfare of the young, the weak, and needy members of society: May they give their very best in the fulfillment of their duty, let us pray! **R.**

C –For the sick and the dying: May they find in the priests, doctors, nurses and relatives the loving care of the divine Good Shepherd, let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)

Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord, look with love on the shepherds of the Church, specially those of our community. Bless their efforts. Make them strong and generous as they strive to imitate Jesus, our loving Good Shepherd who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honor of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface VII

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy . . .

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever!

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd who gave his life for his sheep. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his supper.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(*To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.*)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

Prayer after Communion

P –Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. (*Pause*)

May the Lord, the Eternal Shepherd, direct your steps to himself, and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace to care for one another as Jesus taught us.

All—Thanks be to God!



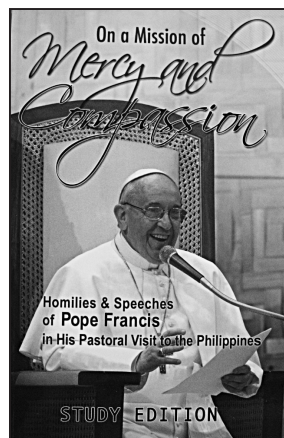
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Always at the Service of All

Jesus and the handful of his faithful disciples were on the verge of exhaustion. They had been on the go for weeks, trying to cope with an ever increasing demand from the people: preaching, healing diseases of every kind, casting out demons . . . (See *Mk 6:12f.*) They couldn't even eat in peace! (See *Mk 6:31.*) They needed a break badly. And Jesus decided to take it together with his close associates.

Crossing over to the other shore of the lake seemed the most natural solution. Mooring in an unfrequented spot would have given them some breathing spell. But the crowds can be quite merciless, sometimes, even without meaning it. Jesus had not yet reached the supposedly "deserted place," and thousands were already there, anxiously waiting for him, "like a flock without a shepherd." (See *Mk 6:34.*)

The exhausted Jesus had no hesitation: he cancelled the "break" and immediately resumed dispensing the Word of God to the hungry hearts. The "Good Shepherd" prom-

ised by God through the prophet Ezekiel had finally arrived! (See *First Reading.*)

Jesus' response to the crowds who had been looking for him in expectation was an eloquent lesson for his apostles. In time, they too would often be confronted with similar situations, and would be challenged to respond as Jesus did.

It is an eloquent lesson for all of us, too, no matter what position we hold in the Church: whether we are leaders or "plain Christians." The thirst for God's Word these days is so great in so many millions of people that no believer can afford to think: "This is not my responsibility!" or "I have already done enough! Now I have the right to rest!"

Taking rest and food are surely fundamental needs. Satisfying them is a necessity and a condition for us to remain alert and efficient in our apostolic commitment. Yet, Jesus' example reminds us that these should never be seen as "inviolable rights" which we defend at all costs and against anybody. *Real love knows only one right: to spend all its*

energies for the sake of others.

It is not just a matter of spending one's time in preaching or in other classical forms of apostolate. Rather, it is a matter of *making oneself totally available to respond to the needs of others.* Parents who spend a sleepless night watching anxiously over their sick child . . . a doctor who moves tirelessly from one patient to another, heeding the call of duty and choosing to disregard the call of his watch . . . the priest who, on a late Sunday night, falls on his hard bed almost in exhaustion, after fourteen hours of unremitting apostolic activity . . . these are all splendid examples of dedication to the service of others, dedication to the call of love.

Such a behavior will seldom get Press or TV coverage. And yet, this is what keeps the world alive. God delights in it. All these acts of selflessness (and similar ones) are reminders and actualizations of the example of the merciful Christ who "did not please himself" (*Rom 15:3*), but gave his life for us all.



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