4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2020

ENTER

“Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.”

JOHN 10:2

ENTERING ANOTHER MONTH

On March 20, our lives changed almost instantly. We received the order to stay-at-home except for essential tasks. Last Friday we heard the news that we would be staying at home longer than we thought—now until May 30. With that news, we heard about more cancellations or postponements of events and activities that we were looking forward to—including the possibility of coming together again for Mass.

We’re entering now into yet another month of adjustment, postponements, silence, solitude, social distancing and wearing masks.

Just as we’ve begun adjusting to this news, this Sunday we hear some other news. We hear Jesus talk about how that, with him in our lives, we are entering through a different kind of experience, a different rite of passage. In making a comparison with the way sheep were housed for the night in the ancient world, we hear Jesus say he is like the gate that keeps the sheep inside safe, protected, and cared for—especially from the wounds they may have received during the course of the day. With him at the door, they could settle in for sleep. They felt secure.

In a time of forging ahead, these words—and the image of Jesus as a guardian or gatekeeper—are comforting to us. This guardian assures us that our life is in his hands, and that no matter what happens we’re never abandoned. Our lives matter—whether we’re sick or healthy; whether we feel secure or insecure; whether we’re afraid or have extraordinary courage.

It helps us forge through the month ahead. Even though we’re forced to stop, postpone or cancel events we have wanted to do and experience, it’s also allowed us to appreciate and notice other important and basic things we may have been missing.

Maybe this time is allowing us to realize we’re loved by those who, like Jesus, want to guard us from harm or sickness. We might really feel that we are cared for and truly loved. It’s a time to appreciate the family we’re living with, with all our idiosyncrasies and uniqueness, because we are talking more, interacting more, and learning more about one another—maybe even seeing ourselves in one another, too.

I’m finding that I’m really enjoying the beauty of Spring and seeing the trees come to life with all their color. It’s been a long, long time since I’ve taken the time to see Spring.

Our culture tends to value doing; but we’re being slowed down now maybe to value simply being—being present; being aware; noticing what we’ve overlooked; appreciating simple things that really are the important things. There’s a great line from Psalm 46 that could be a mantra to hold onto through the end of May: “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10). This is a time of stillness and being present to God and to one another.

We enter into life through Jesus Christ who guards us from anything that could take us away from him. So, we take it a day at a time, not without pain or frustration or even feeling afraid, but knowing that because we’ve entered into a relationship with Christ, his love and care for us never ceases to exit. So, be still. Take time to pray and be present to God the way He’s present to us. It’s not just something to do, but a way to be.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

— Fr. Mike
Mass Intentions

While we are unable to gather for Mass, Fr. Mike continues to pray and holds a Mass in memory of our parishioners and loved ones each day. We invite you to remember them in your prayers, as well.

Monday, May 4
7:00 AM Carlos Tagpis

Tuesday, May 5
8:30 AM Richard Cesar Chirinos

Wednesday, May 6
7:00 AM Communion Service

Thursday, May 7—National Day of Prayer
7:00 AM Communion Service

Friday, May 8
7:00 AM St. Hubert Parishioners

Saturday, May 9
4:30 PM Marry Perry

Sunday, May 10—5th Sunday of Easter & Mother’s Day
7:30 AM Irene Weith, Dolores Kaberlein, LaVerne Johansen, John Rausch
9:00 AM Nancy Barfield, Nona Geldernick
10:45 AM Trudy Keck, Jankowski and Stanek Families, Angela Mirabile
12:15 PM Jovita Kwan, Nancy Barfield, Irene Mowinski, Stephanie Kopterski
6:00 PM Eldorado Gibbs, Catherine Aschom

Pray for...

Sick

Others
Those who protect at home and overseas

Deceased
John Catalano, Thomas Gallagher, Christopher Wojcik, Christine Burns, Michael Livorsi, Ray Brinkman, Louise Gurklis

To have a particular intention for those who are sick, recently deceased, or otherwise in need of prayers considered for inclusion in the Prayer of the Faithful during our Sunday liturgy, please go to the website, www.sainthubert.org and click on the Prayer Request button or call the parish office at 847-885-7700, ext. 102.

A Spiritual Communion

A Spiritual Communion Prayer Service will be available every Sunday throughout this time when we do not have Mass. It is patterned after the Mass, is unique to St. Hubert with a reflection by Fr. Mike, and provides a way to keep our community connected and in prayer. When we cannot receive the Eucharist in person, we can still receive it by desire. Spiritual Communion is a profound prayer of longing to be with Christ. If you have a crucifix or an image of Christ on holy card or a statue, consider using it as a focal point for your time of prayer. Click the box "Spiritual Communion" on the front page of our website: www.sainthubert.org.
GOSPEL MEDITATION:
4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]
1 Pt 2:20b-25
Jn 10:1-10

Readings for the week:
Monday, May 4
Acts 11:1-18
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]
Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday, May 5
Acts 11:19-26
Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday, May 6
Acts 12:24–13:5a
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday, May 7
Acts 13:13-25
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]
Jn 13:16-20

Friday, May 8
Acts 13:26-33
Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday, May 9
Acts 13:44-52
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]
Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday, May 10
Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]
1 Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12

“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”
— John 10:9


With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn’t hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God’s. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God’s presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our of lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.
Close the Distance, Not the Gate

By Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Nobel-prizing winning author, Toni Morrison, assessing the times, asks this question: “Why should we want to know a stranger when it is easier to estrange another? Why should we want to close the distance when we can close the gate?” Except this isn’t a question, it’s a judgment.

It’s a negative judgment on both our society and our churches. Where are our hearts really at? Are we trying more to close the distance between us and what’s foreign, or are we into closing gates to keep strangers estranged?

In fairness, it might be pointed out that this has always been a struggle. There hasn’t been a golden age within which people wholeheartedly welcomed the stranger. There have been golden individuals and even golden communities who were welcoming, but never society or church as a whole.

Much as this issue is so front and center in our politics today, as countries everywhere struggle with their immigration policies and with what to do with millions of refugees and migrants wanting to enter their country, I want to take Morrison’s challenge, to close the distance rather than close the gate, to our churches: Are we inviting in the stranger? Or, are we content to let the estranged remain outside?

There is a challenging motif within Jesus’ parable of the over-generous vineyard owner which can easily be missed because of the overall lesson within the story. It concerns the question that the vineyard owner asks the last group of workers, those who will work for only one hour. Unlike the first group, he doesn’t ask them: “Do you want to work in my vineyard?” Rather he asks them: “Why aren’t you working?” Their answer: “Because no one has hired us!” Notice they don’t answer by saying that their non-employment is because they are lazy, incompetent, or disinterested. Neither does the vineyard owner’s question imply that. They aren’t working simply because no one has given them the invitation to work!

Sadly, I believe this is the case for so many people who are seemingly cold or indifferent to religion and our churches. Nobody has invited them in! And that was true too at the time of Jesus. Whole groups of people were seen as being indifferent and hostile to religion and were deemed simply as sinners. This included prostitutes, tax collectors, foreigners, and criminals. Jesus invited them in and many of them responded with a sincerity, contrition, and devotion that shamed those who considered themselves true believers. For the so-called sinners, all that stood between them and entry into the kingdom was a genuine invitation.

Why aren’t you practicing a faith? No one has invited us!

Just in my own, admittedly limited, pastoral experience, I have seen a number of individuals who from childhood to early or late mid-life were indifferent to, and even somewhat paranoid about, religion and church. It was a world from which they had always felt excluded. But, thanks to some gracious person or fortunate circumstance, at a moment, they felt invited in and they gave themselves over to their new religious family with a disarming warmth, fervor, and gratitude, often taking a fierce pride in their new identity. Witnessing this several times, I now understand why the prostitutes and tax collectors, more than the church people at the time, believed in Jesus. He was the first religious person to truly invite them in.

Sadly, too, there’s a reverse side to this is where, all too often, in all religious sincerity, we not only don’t invite certain others in, we positively close the gates on them. We see that, for example, a number of times in the Gospels where those around Jesus block others from having access to him, as is the case in that rather colorful story where some people are trying to bring a paralytic to Jesus but are blocked by the crowds surrounding him and consequently have to make a hole in the roof in order to lower the paralytic into Jesus’ presence.

Too frequently, unknowingly, sincerely, but blindly, we are that crowd around Jesus, blocking access to him by our presence. This is an occupational danger especially for all of us who are in ministry. We so easily, in all sincerity, in the name of Christ, in the name of orthodox theology, and in the name of sound pastoral practice set ourselves up as gatekeepers, as guardians of our churches, through whom others must pass in order to have access to God. We need to more clearly remember that Christ is the gatekeeper, and the only gatekeeper, and we need to refresh ourselves on what that means by looking at why Jesus chased the moneychangers out of the temple in John’s Gospel. They, the moneychangers, had set themselves up as a medium through which people has to pass in order to offer workshop to God. Jesus would have none of it.

Our mission as disciples of Jesus is not to be gatekeepers. We need instead to work at closing the distance rather than closing the gate.

Used with permission of the author. Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, and is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com. Reprinted from October 16, 2017.
LIVE THE LITURGY
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When you wake up in the morning, whose voice is the first one you listen to? Your own? Someone else’s? Or God? We all listen to someone and follow some sort of guidelines and principles. If it is a secular voice that propels us to get up in the morning and take up the task of the day’s agenda, then we may find ourselves off track. The advice found in the Acts of the Apostles was as true then as it is now, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Most of what we listen to in secular voices is off the axis of truth and distorted. It may sound attractive, but it is deceptive at best. Many have gone astray like sheep and need to return to the Good Shepherd. Only Jesus can offer us the gate of life, and only Jesus as the Good Shepherd can really motivate us to take on the challenges of life. If we don’t recognize his voice, we can risk facing destruction.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn’t cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn’t require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John’s Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
Read the Gospel and Color

Sharing the Gospel
You are one of God’s sheep. Jesus calls you by name. You recognize his voice. Close your eyes. Listen to the voices of your family and friends. You can tell who is talking by the sound of their voices. You choose to follow Jesus on his path. You love God above everything. You love your neighbor as yourself. You share your toys, money and food with your family and the poor.

Prayer
Jesus, help me hear the right voices, and not follow the wrong voices.

Puzzle
Help the sheep find the shepherd.

Something to Draw
Draw a sheep following Jesus along a road that leads into heaven.

Mission for the Week
I will listen and follow directions of my parents and teachers right away.
Read the Gospel and Color

Sharing the Gospel
Jesus is the way for you to go to heaven. Through Jesus' love and forgiveness, you can be close to God. You can enjoy the many ways God takes care of you. God gives you people to love. God gives you food to eat. He gives you the Bible to read. Stay close to God through Jesus.

Prayer
Jesus, thank you for helping me follow God.

Puzzle
Find the lamb that is different!

Mission for the Week
Make a sign for your bedroom door that says, "Jesus is the way to heaven."
St. Hubert School students have had rigorous instruction and learning while they have been home. Instruction has included daily Zoom classes, online instruction, submission of work through Google accounts, assignments and submissions through Seasaw and other learning tools, including YouTube channels with recorded sessions and much, much more! We thought an unwind Wednesday was much needed for our learners. Students spent the time checking in on loved ones, creating arts and crafts, playing cards, talking walks, and best of all spending time with loved ones!

We are virtually registering for the 2020-2021 School Year! Contact us for a virtual tour!

Preschool - 8th Grade
www.sthubertschool.org
office@sthubertschool.org
Sacramental Life

ADORATION: Fridays after 7:00 AM Mass on Fridays.

BAPTISMS: To register for Baptism, stop in or call the Parish Office. Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 1:30 PM or at Mass by arrangement. You will confirm the date for Baptism by attending the Baptism Preparation Meeting.

FUNERALS: Please call the Parish Ministry Center Office to make arrangements.

MARRIAGES: Please do not reserve your banquet hall before confirming the date with the church. Set your date by calling the Parish Office as early as possible—six months before the wedding. Weddings take place on Saturdays at 2:00 PM. Weekdays and Sundays must be arranged individually.

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays after 4:30 PM Mass or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Ministry Center Office to make arrangements for a priest to visit.

Call the Parish Office 847-885-7700, ext. 102 for further questions or to make arrangements.

Parish Contacts

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Rev. Robert C. Rizzo (Pastor Emeritus)
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THE PARISH OFFICE & SCHOOL ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19.
Staff members have access to both email and voicemail while working from home.

ALEXIAN INTERFAITH COUNSELING SERVICES 855-383-2224
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE 877-863-6338
CRISIS PREGNANCY HELPLINE 630-339-3660

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Sexual Abuse 800-994-6200
Financial Misconduct 866-294-5256
For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4LPi.com
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