

4th Sunday of Easter Season
April 25th, 2021
Good Shepherd Sunday
Vocations Sunday
Cycle B

1st Reading: Acts 4:8 – 12.

God elevates Jesus as the Savior of the World.

Psalm Response: Psalm 118:1, 8 – 9, 21 – 23, 26, 28, 29.

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1 – 2.

We are God's children now.

Gospel: John: 10: 11 – 18.

God calls Jesus to be the Good Shepherd

God is good, **all the time**, All the Time, **God is good**

Jesus Christ is truly risen! Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Just checking your memories as to how Fr. Dan began his homilies (and for those old enough to remember Fr. Ken Templin) during the Easter Season. My friends it is still the Easter Season and we have made it halfway now on our way to Pentecost. Hopefully we are heading there bravely and without fear, remembering Jesus' greeting of "Peace" these last two weekends.

As you can guess from our readings today is commonly called "Good Shepherd Sunday." And this year we are asked to make this "Vocations Sunday" as well. When you think about it, it makes some sense. Jesus, when he was here, had a mission, a calling, a vocation from the Father. By his life, death and resurrection Jesus has united us to God's self as Jesus' Body: diverse, multifaceted and beautiful. Also the path is sometimes rocky, unpassable and filled with challenges; and many times due to our own pain and suffering we seek the nearest exit. We are God's children now, and each of us has been called to share God's light in our world, even though we all take a different path as we share the

gifts God has given to us. I am reminded of Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken." (1916) No matter what path we choose, well-traveled or not, God as our loving parent will enfold us and if necessary, carry us. There is no more difficult process we go through in our life than choosing our vocation; following where God is calling us to go, being true to whom God created us to be. At least that is the way I see it. For me, as long as I can remember all I ever wanted to be was a priest. Not that I didn't ever question or struggle with that decision, but I was on the path when at the age of 24 my Bishop decided I was not what he wanted or was looking for in his priests. Fascinating that at that pain filled moment in my life God put Becky Purdy on my path and I discovered my primary vocation in life through a family, a LOVE relationship. I found myself being a husband, a father and a light-bearer in our world.

Not a smooth sail, but the secondary vocation took us on a wild ride until we landed here and could call it home, always a good place to be. In June of 2007 God lead me to clerical position, to go along side, to accompany my marriage vocation; Bishop Murray offered Becky a free pass to Heaven for having to put up with me. Life continues to present me with ways to shine Christ's light in our world as long as I keep listening. The one thing I have learned is that if I don't give up on God, God doesn't give up on me. That voice I heard in the ICU reassuring me that "We got you joe."

We are all God's children now: John is telling us we are all related, we are the root stock of our God and God is directing all of us to be the hands and feet of our brother, Jesus, the Christ, by shepherding one another through this time we have together. When our time here has come to a close, God will determine how well we followed God's call by sniffing us to see if we smell like God's sheep. Thank you, Pope Francis, for that image. Thank God for the challenge to be good shepherds: bearers of Christ's light in our world. Christ is truly risen, Alleluia! **CHRIST is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

God is Good, **all the time.** All the time, **God is good.**

