

Christ, the Good Shepherd

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. It is a day that we are reminded that our Savior Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life us, his sheep. In the Gospel Jesus says: “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” But how do we recognize the voice of Christ, the Good Shepherd in our society today that is consumed with the sound of many voices? There is the popular voice that wants us to remain indifferent in the face of the ills that plague the world today. The voice that says as long as you are happy, not in anyone’s turf, and not hurting anyone, then you can do whatever you want. There is the voice of politics that says if we are not of the same party or do not agree politically then we are enemies. There is the voice that measures self-worth with how many college degrees we have and how much money we make. There is the voice that diminishes the worth of human life. There is the voice that says as long as we have technological breakthrough, we do not need God. I could go on and on with the list, but it shows how confusing it can be to listen to all these voices in our society today. How can we tell the difference?

If we are not careful, these voices might hinder us from listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd. However, as we strive more to listen to the voice of God, we might discover that the main obstacle to hearing the voice of the Lord is not the world around us, but it is actually us and our fear of hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Sometimes when we hear God’s voice, we refuse to accept that it is God speaking to us because at those times, God is asking you to do something you do not particularly want to do, like: forgive someone, apologize to someone, speak out against social injustices, help your parish, protect the unborn, care for the stranger no matter who the person is, stop judging.

This fear of hearing God’s voice is that it might challenge us, make us a little uncomfortable, stretch us and take us out of our comfort zone. The voice of the Good Shepherd calls us not to be filled with fear but to be moved by love. For it was out of love that Christ hung on the cross for us, despite its agony.

Let us be filled with courage in the truth that Jesus Christ will always guide and strengthen us in all our efforts.

Happy Mother’s Day!

Today, we celebrate Mother’s Day. We remember in a special way the love, care, and sacrifices with which our mothers nurtured us. You are the Good Shepherds in our families. We are profoundly grateful to all mothers at Holy Trinity, St. John’s, and beyond. Happy Mother’s Day.

May the peace of the risen Christ always fill yours hearts and homes.

Father Anthony Ahamefule
Parish Priest