

Homily 4th Sunday Easter

Acts 13:14, 43-52 Revelation 7:9, 14B-17 Jn 10: 27-30

As we celebrate Mother's Day I recall what Erma Bombeck wrote many years ago in her article *When God Created Mothers* :

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said. "You're doing a lot of fussing around on this one."

And God said, "Have you read the specs on this order?" She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair.

And six pairs of hands!"

The angel shook her head in disbelief. "Six pairs of hands ?.... no way! "

God said:It's not the hands that are causing me problems, it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' ...when she already knows.

Another pair of eyes in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know,

...and of course the pair of eyes in front that can look at a child when he or she goofs up and say. 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

God," said the angel, "Get some rest think about it tomorrow...."

I can't," said God, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger...and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."

All across our country today we celebrate our mothers....mothers who have served as models for love in our homes... and in our faith communities.

And it is appropriate that our readings should reflect such a basic understanding of love ...Jesus as the Good Shepherd. .. our gospel on Mothers a Day is really about Jesus teaching his apostles and disciples how to love.

Applied to our practical lives, the message is clear. Whatever our state in life may be, we are all called to shepherd those who for various reasons have been entrusted to our care... whoever the "sheep " may be family, friends, parishioners or even strangers

And so being shepherds means being like Christ the true shepherd because

True shepherds are called to love unconditionally.

True shepherds are reliable and dependable... They do not simply live for themselves.

True shepherds are self-giving.

As true shepherdsAnd these demands means that the true shepherd needs time for renewal.... So it shouldn't surprise us that to be good shepherds we need to spend regular time with Jesus, the chief shepherd.

Because it is the chief shepherd who will give us the strength, and inspiration to shepherd our flocks whether the flock be a parish, an office or a family.

And so it is no coincidence that Catholic Charities of our Diocese conducts its Mother's Day Appeal all across our 12000 square miles of our Diocese today as if to remind all of us that the values of a Mothers love... values that are based on Christ Himself are passed on through our church... and our churches organization like Catholic Charities.

Values like generosity caring and unconditional love and support

A Diocesan wide collection that allows our church to share its love through compassionate giving

On this day when we celebrate our mothers and our mothers to be... We are reminded not only that our celebration of mothers underscores our deepest desires for peace and harmony that we seek for all families and all communities

....but also how difficult that is to achieve.

Today we also remember that A Mother does not simply have love and concern for her own child but the wellbeing of all children... And for the well being of all families

Our Mothers pass on the message that Christ has given to us in this gospel written so long ago.... In spite if everything else ...simply love one another.

Happy Mother's Day and May God Bless