

**Fourth Sunday, B Cycle, homily 4-21-18**

**I am the Good Shepherd**

**He is risen; God is alive**

**Story of the Good Shepherd; Good Shepherd Sunday**

**Story of parents dropping off their children for first communion  
retreat**

- **Who wants to get out of bed on Saturday morning?**
- **Who wants to try to wake up their child for a retreat?**
  - **Only the parents who love their children and wants the best for them.**
- **Bond of parent and child is being formed; unconditional love always attracts them to one another.**

**Story of Isaac initially forming BMO**

- **Started going to this Sunday afternoon held by a Chinese Christian church.**
- **They welcomed him; he is about to take his bar exam to be a lawyer.**
- **But when he brought his neighborhood friends who looked on the rough side**

to play ball, the Chinese members told him that he was welcome but his neighborhood friends were not.

- He decided to come here and ask if he and his friends could play ball
- He has been here to open almost every Sunday for the last seven years
  - Over 2,000 young men have come
  - Four centers started
  - It is very attractive to the young men
  - Unconditional love always is.

Story of walk in neighborhood on Friday evening.

- On the east side
- Walk up and down the block chanting: no more violence, no more killing, enough is enough
- Stopped outside a large laundromat. Stopped people coming outside and told them we were walking for peace in our neighborhoods and households. Formed a circle for prayer and invited them to join us.
- Many did: unconditional love attracts

Signs of unconditional love.

**In today's gospel, we hear Jesus use the image of the Good Shepherd to help describe his very being as unconditional love.**

**I AM the Good Shepherd.**

**I know mine and mine know me.**

**I will lay down my life for my sheep.**

**Something is very attractive about that image.**

**The words "I am the Good Shepherd tells us not so much what God does as who God is. God IS unconditional love and**

**God's unconditional love attracts us;**

**It draws us to God as metal is attracted to a magnet.**

**I lay down my life for my sheep;**

**The image of the Good Shepherd invites us into the unconditional love of God; it invites us enter into the very life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**That is why a parent gets up on a Saturday morning to bring our children to a first communion retreat.**

**That is why a young adult man begins a young adult man leaves the comfort of an organized program to welcome his neighbors for form a group on their own.**

**That is why people from different Christian Churches gather on Friday evenings to walk the streets and pray for an end of violence and an establishment of peace in our neighborhoods.**

**The Good Shepherd tells us not so much what God does, but who God is. When we act as good shepherds, we enter into living God's unconditional love, we enter the very life of God.**

**Yes, he, who is unconditional love, is alive!**

**He is risen!**

**And we, my brothers and sisters, are his beloved.**