

**"The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep"**  
**(John 10: 11-18)**

The Easter season is a continuous feast and fills us with the joys of the Risen Lord. What joy and what happiness! Today the Church celebrates **Good Shepherd Sunday**. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who taught us that you have to die to live. How many samples of love have we received throughout life that have made us feel that there is always someone who cares about us? At least for me as a priest, it has always filled me with hope to see so **many ordinary people who love God** and his Church give Him the best of themselves. Pope Francis is a shepherd who teaches us to be **shepherds at the service of the flock**.

Easter joy illuminates in a remarkable way the words of this parable of Jesus. With Pope Francis these words come to life as he invites us to be **shepherds who are called to give protection**, avoid dangers, rescue those who are stuck or lost, and lead the flock home at the end of the day. How much responsibility for ordinary men and women! However, we count on the strength of Jesus who invites us to imitate him and be like him. We count on the **prayer** that unites us to Jesus and gives us strength to proclaim him from the rooftops. I like to hear the **prayers of the people of God** in each Eucharist, at each Mass. I like to hear the people's voice pray! Yes, dear brothers and sisters, you are the voice of God to your pastors. And if those voices are silent, the stones will scream.

The readings refer to two metaphors that describe Jesus; the cornerstone and the good shepherd. The two metaphors help us to see **Jesus as the stone on which our salvation rests** and at the same time the voice that keeps us from getting lost on the way and takes us home. If a Christian does not feel at home when he is in church, it is because he has lost his way and has not heard the voice of Jesus. Today we are that voice that shouts with our good actions that Jesus has risen and that death has been conquered. Now is the time of salvation and of going to those who are lost

on the way. Each of us is called to dream together of a better tomorrow. Parents are witnesses to the mission of Jesus the Good Shepherd every time they speak with their children, they reprimand them, they advise them, they give them their blessing and above all they make them feel that they belong to a home. The Church is the common home where we all feel the love and protection of Jesus. Although of our own free will, we stray from the paths that lead to salvation, we are left with the comfort and hope that if one day we hear the voice of Jesus, perhaps one day we will hear his voice again. Jesus will lead us to the pastures of salvation because He gave His life for us.

**Fr. Hernán, SJ**

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*“Having to choose between his own life and the life of the sheep, the **Good Shepherd** chooses the life of the sheep. He does it because he **loves** the sheep, and because he loves the **Father** who has given him this command”*  
**(Pope Francis).**