

16th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.
THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN ACTION.

A few weeks ago, the Gospel spoke to us of the qualities of a good shepherd. It stipulated clearly and in no uncertain terms that a good shepherd **cares, knows, listens, attends, and gathers the sheep and he is always available to the needs of his flock.** In today's readings especially the first reading, we see the contrary to the good shepherd who is not caring at all. We see the **disaster** for the shepherd who loses and scatters the flock away from the fold. Yahweh is disappointed and promises to deal with such a shepherd and go after the remnant of the flock and return them back and they will be fruitful and increase since He will take care of them.

Obviously, due to the lack of attention, the sheep can be scattered and driven away and go missing. Because of the attention by Yahweh, a beautiful song in the form of a Psalm was created, "***the lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want. He leads me to green pastures.***" How are you attending to the sheep the Lord has put into your care? The good shepherd in action is seen in the person of Jesus Christ who in all the pages of the Gospel, cares for His people, even to the extent of ***laying down His life for the sheep.*** His heart ***was moved with pity for them for they were like sheep without a shepherd and despite being tired He began teaching them many things.***

This is precisely why we are here today in this church, we are on a special **mission.** We are called to bring healing to this **suffering society, the world, and our families.** *We are called to be instruments of peace to our neighborhood, backstreets, to the borders, to this earth, to the environment.* Are we going to **scatter** as the bad shepherd or **gather** as the good one? We are being invited to act today, tomorrow might be too late.

We must be present to ourselves so that we may be available to others. So, **go to that lonely place get that energy needed for shepherding.**

He is inviting you today to care for the ***homeless within your society, to children deprived and separated from their family due to political instability in their country, the refugees, the undocumented immigrants, the poor Haitians, the millions of starving children in African, those who have no access to clean water, or medical care facilities.*** We are called to protect the youth and the children from ***sexual harassment.*** This is the work of a good shepherd in action.

The good shepherd wants us to break the walls of hatred and gossip. He wants us to bring together Jews, Gentles, Catholics, Protestants, Republicans, Democrats, Liberals, independents, the poor and the rich, traditionalist and progressives. All those divisions **must be put on hold if we want to have peace in the world. We must all struggle and meet as ONE** despite our different affiliations and accommodate one another. The central meeting point is **CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN ACTION.**
BE A GOOD SHEPHERD TO ONE ANOTHER.