

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER 2023.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD-MAASAI OF KENYA/TANZANIA:

When we talk of good shepherd Sunday, my mind races back to Kenya to this pastoralists tribe we call Maasai which inhabits the famous ***Masai Mara Game park that extends up to Mt.Kilimanjaro the highest Beautiful mountain in Africa.(19,000ft)***

They believe all cows, goats and sheep belong to them and they are God given for their benefit and needs hence they take good care of them by all means.

These nomadic tribe literally takes care of their flock at all times, they criss-cross the two countries for the pasture as though there are no regional boundaries so long as there is pasture. Very sensitive to climate change. They are very alert always for cattle rustles and predators that might attack the flocks. They take care of the expectant flock and the sick ones they have traditional herbs to counteract any diseases or illness for the flock. They will know their flock and will call them by names. They are very committed shepherd indeed and we can learn a lot from them with regards to the caring of the animals. The Maasai will do whatever is within his effort to **care, protect, safeguard and tender the flock even if it will mean fighting the wild animals and even death.**

It is against this background we read about the good Shepard today, Jesus is the good shepherd and the door of the sheepfold, He watches over the sheep always, taking them to green pastures and clean water through his church in ***His word and Eucharist. He protects the sheep from the attacks from the devil. He is assuring us protection under his watchful care. Even though we walk through dark valleys we should not fear any evil since he is with us(Ps.23:4).***

We need to listen to His voice **calling, alerting warning and directing us.** We are in this world full of so many **misleading voices, world of imperfection, emotional crisis, crimes, conflicts, hatred selfishness's, drug and alcohol abuse, modern technology abuse inform of photography** too of **grace, love and even sin** we need to distinguish

which voice we are going to follow,They are so much amplified by **social media and extreme groups**.There is great competition in these voices demanding our attention,**conflicting our interest,assaulting our senses and intelligence,challenging our beliefs,cultural values thus disrating our society if we don't stand firm**.It is bein literally threatened by what we are calling **modern technology thus leading us away from God,voices of terrorism,clergy sexual scandals,child abuse by even parents and relatives, what are voices we have in our world!**

The sheep must follow the voice of the Shepherd inspite of the **conflicting voices which are inevitable so long as we are in this world**.

Jesus the good shepherd has shown us the example by taking care of his flock **those in different needs,the sick,the suffering and the dying**.He protects us always to an extend of dying for us.

We must take care of the sheep given to us,we are all called to be good shepherds today and we are reminded of our duties and responsibility.

Parents taking care of their children,children taking care of their parents when aged,husbands and wife's taking care of each other,Politicians,civil leaders minding about the citizen, religious leaders minding about the parishioners,teachers,

Doctors,nurses,caregivers minding their clients.we all have a duty over one another in this confused world of conflicting voices.

A good Shepherd must have **integrity,trust and self worthy,must be gentle,caring firm and challenging too**,keeping an eye on every sheep since there are some who are cunning.Must be ready to face **adversityky,insult and even threat just like the Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ**.

BE A SHEPHERD TODAY FOR SOMEONE: