

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

We have arrived at the fourth Sunday of Easter, and with it, Christ presents himself as the Good Shepherd.

God's Providence gives us this text in the Gospel of Saint John, amidst the joy that fills the entire Catholic Church for the election of a new pontiff, successor of the Apostle Peter: Pope Leo XIV.

Let us thank God for him, let us pray for him, and let us focus our gaze not on nationalities or prejudices; let us focus our gaze on the one he represents: Christ the Good Shepherd.

Returning to the Gospel of Saint John, three verbs characterize the relationship of Christ the Good Shepherd with his sheep:

LISTEN - KNOW - FOLLOW.

LISTEN. This action is fundamental in the relationship between God, who comes to meet humanity, and his chosen people.

Let us remember that at Mount Sinai, the voice of God resounded, saying: Shema Israel, which means: HEAR, Israel.

The God of Israel guides his people with his word, and we recognize in Christ that Eternal Word, which leads us to the fullness of revelation.

The life of Christ, his words, his actions, are the incarnate word. Therefore, we must be attentive to that word and make it life within us.

Let us not be distracted by our tasks and concerns of this life.

KNOW. This action indicates a total gift, a belonging in love; God chooses us because he loves us and gives himself to us out of love. If we know God's love for us, let us seek to reciprocate and love him with all our hearts.

FOLLOW. It is impossible to know Christ and not love him; to love him and not follow him.

Listening to his voice in our hearts implies following him, imitating him, following in his footsteps, being like him.

This is why it is so difficult to be a Christian today, because the human heart has closed itself off in selfishness and is centered on the "I." I want, I need, I seek, and we forget that Christ always sought others, those in need, those without a voice. To be Christians, we need to leave our "I" and seek the "You."

In short: Listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd leads us to know His will in our lives, and by knowing it, to carry it out with joy as disciples of the Risen Christ.

Let us pray to the Virgin Mary for the entire Church that we may be true witnesses of the Gospel, and that every day many more may hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. So be it.Amen...