

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY...

With this Easter joy, we have arrived at the fourth Sunday of Easter, and the readings, especially the Gospel, use one of the oldest symbols to refer to Jesus: the Good Shepherd.

Let us remember that due to the persecutions suffered by the first Christians, they used figures or symbols to refer to Jesus or Christ, among the best known being the figure of the Good Shepherd.

And precisely in today's Gospel, Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd to a nascent Church, which like any flock, can stray from the path; Jesus presents himself as the gate to finding a safe way.

Currently, social media has become the way to follow someone, whether for their content, their way of thinking, their proposals, etc. But it is important to ask ourselves: Is it safe to follow these so-called influencers? Are they leading us down a safe path? We must be careful, because we are what we listen to; we are who we follow.

In a world overflowing with ideologies, it's easy to become confused and suddenly lose sight of our ultimate destiny. Therefore, Jesus with the purpose of giving us abundant life, wants to be that Good Shepherd who calls each of us by name, leading and guiding us along a safe path.

But it will depend on us whether we recognize and listen to his voice to be able to follow in his footsteps.

In the first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter helps us to understand what it means to follow in Jesus' footsteps:

- a) to convert to the Lord and be saved from this corrupt world;*
- b) to be baptized in the name of Jesus.*

Recognizing the voice of Jesus also implies recognizing myself, with my strengths and weaknesses, and making the decision to follow in Jesus' footsteps. That is conversion.

Today's world, so full of proposals contrary to the voice of Jesus, can confuse us; and worse still, it can hinder our salvation. That is why, in this Easter season, we are invited to renew our baptismal promises, to say no to sin and yes to grace.

This will allow us to recognize Jesus not only as the Good Shepherd, but as the Lord and Savior of our lives.

Following in Jesus' footsteps, we are also invited to be shepherds to others, helping them to recognize the voice of Jesus, who never ceases to call us lovingly by name.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary for her intercession so that we may hear the voice of Jesus and receive the abundant life he offers us. Amen.