

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 05/8/2022.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and if you and I listen to the voice of the good shepherd, two important things He calls us to do throughout our lives is to be:

Peace makers & Lovers!

First of all, a Peace maker is one who at all times seeks to promote **Unity** among people. The night before Jesus died, He prayed for **Unity** among all his followers.

The Unity of the Father & Son. As Jesus says in today's Gospel, "The Father and I are one."

The Unity of Christ with you and me. If you love me, you will keep my commandments and the Father and I will come and live within you."

And finally, there is the Unity of you and me with all others. Jesus prayed, "Father that they all may be one as you and I are one."

How blessed we are in our Pope, Pope Francis. By his example it is obvious he is working for peace and unity between the wealthy and the poor, women and men, Jews, Muslims and Christians.

Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd who guides us and holds us in His Hands as we go about being peacemakers, but He is also the **Lamb** who lays down his life for his sheep. In other words, He is calling us to be Lovers - laying down our lives for one another.

Whether a person is single or married, we are all called to **Love**. As married couples you know that marriages go through stages:

There is that **Honeymoon stage**; then the **disillusionment stage, misery, re-awakening** and finally the **love stage**.

That is Love, love that is totally centered on the other. I saw that kind of love years ago in St. John... (Today, the 50th wedding Anniversary of Mary and Bob - We congratulate you as you celebrate God's love for you and your love for one another. As you know you don't make it together for 50 years without God's grace enabling you to lay down your lives for one another on a daily basis in a thousand little ways. Thank you for being such a wonderful and inspirational example of fidelity and love to God and one another for all these years.)

If there be anybody today, single and married, that feels like you are in the misery stage of life, don't try harder. Simply trust more that the Good Shepherd has you in the palm of his hand during this difficult time, and He will not let you go. As you come to Him in Holy Communion today, ask Him for the grace of courage and perseverance - for He tells us, "My grace is sufficient for you."

In the meantime, with God's help do what you can simply to be a **Peace maker** and a **Lover!** I love Saint Mother Teresa's advice: "**People are illogical, unreasonable, and self - centered. Love them anyway!**"