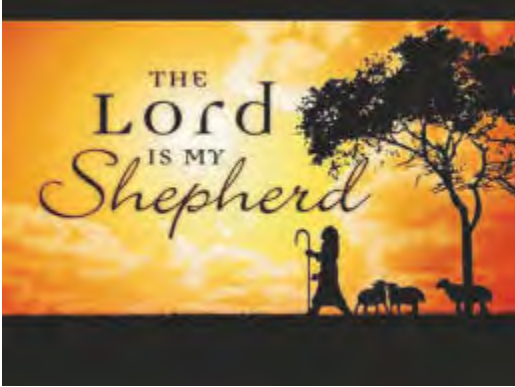


FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



One of our parishioners recently commented that when she grew up there was a sense of optimism. The future was bright. She contrasted this to the world we live in, especially thinking of her daughters who are growing up in a post-Pandemic world, with a lingering sense of fear and uncertainty.

Today's Sunday liturgy offers us a respite from all of this, and invites to see things through the eyes of the psalmist, in the words of the responsorial Psalm:

'The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.'

In his book "The Burning Bush" Lev Gillet, a monk of the Orthodox Church, gives a meditation on the "Shepherd Psalm, Psalm 23". He says:

'There is no doubt that Jesus, when he spoke of the good shepherd, had the twenty-third psalm in mind. He himself had certainly recited it, and knew it even as a small child.'

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want"

This is not a forecast of the future: 'The Lord will be my shepherd'

This is not a wishful prayer: 'Lord, be my shepherd'

It is a statement of fact: 'The Lord is my shepherd'

The Good News is that the Good Shepherd will speak to us in the Liturgy today. He invites us to listen to his voice, that our going in and out may be through him. Together with the psalmist may each of us be able to say: it is true, he is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

I will not be celebrating the Liturgy with you in person this weekend, because I am accompanying a group of 120 youth from our church and neighboring parishes on a Vocational pilgrimage. The word 'parishioner' means 'pilgrim'.

We are all pilgrims, traveling on a road that wants to lead us to heaven.

The World Youth Day, which was scheduled to be in Lisbon, Portugal this summer, was postponed because of the pandemic. So, a pilgrimage has been organized within the US. Tens of thousands of youth will be on pilgrimage this week, traveling from as far away as Guam, Hawaii, California, Montana, Texas, Colorado, the Midwest, the South-west and the Northeast to a Vocational Meeting in Gettysburg on Sunday July 25th.

Each group will travel on buses, moving from city to city across the country, as we make our way to Lancaster County in Pennsylvania and Gettysburg. We will pray the Rosary and Morning Prayer on the bus, listen to the Word of God and do street missions in the towns we pass through. We will celebrate the Eucharist each day.

Please pray for this pilgrimage, and for these youth, that they may discover their vocation, whether that be to Married life, the Priesthood, or Religious Life. We will be praying for you and your intentions.

Fr. Sean