



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

## April 25, 2021      Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is Good Shepherd as well as Vocations Sunday. Now, we ask ourselves, what is our vocation as people who have been baptized into Christ and who are members of Christ's body?

One way of thinking about our call to vocation is to say that we are called to see as Jesus sees. We then courageously say that a Christian is someone whose calling is to see life as Jesus sees it, to see people as Jesus sees them. What distinguished Jesus from us, however, was his seeing people with love and generosity, he often saw more in others than we see.

Reflecting on the image of today's first reading and psalm, where others saw a stone to be rejected or ignored, he saw a corner stone. Where others saw people of no significance, he saw them same people as having much to teach the rest of us. Whenever we see people with the Lord's eyes and relate to them accordingly, we help them to become all that God wants them to be, like the cripple in today's first reading who, through Peter's presence to him, came to stand up perfectly healthy.

The reverse is equally true. We can have a crippling effect on people when the stance we take towards them is lacking in generosity and love, when we become overly critical or dismissive. If we are called to see life as the Lord sees it, then we have to become familiar with how the Lord sees it. We need to keep listening to the Lord's word, to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd, in the words of today's gospel reading. Our commitment to our shared baptismal vocation is to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd, so that we can see through the eyes of Jesus.

Jesus' generous way of seeing people becomes only a reflection of how God sees us. Saint John, in today's second reading articulates how God sees us. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us." He speaks. God sees us as his children, as his sons and daughters, and, accordingly, as people with a wonderful destiny. Our destiny, according to that same reading, is to see God as God really is. That is as our ultimate vocation, to see God as God really is, and, thereby to become like God.

Today's gospel reading, Jesus, the good shepherd says of himself: "I know my own and my own know me". The good shepherd sees more deeply than other people see. Our vocation challenge today is to see our brothers and sisters as Jesus sees them. Recognize the signs of God in others and in ourselves, even when those signs are not all that obvious in our lives. Let us find comfort in knowing that the Good Shepherd watches over us, providing comfort, protection, guidance, and above all Salvation and Life Everlasting.