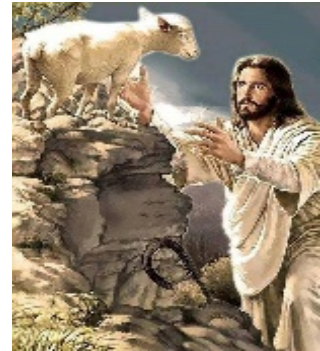


LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. A vocation is a call from God. Most people are called to the married life. Some are called to a single life. Some people are called to religious life, and choose to take vows and live in a religious community. Some are called to the priesthood, and are ordained for service in the Church.

There are many pathways that people can follow in response to God’s invitation and call to service. How are you called to serve?

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- How do people discover their vocation? How do people hear the voice of God in their lives?
- How can we help people to discover where and how God might be calling them? What ideas would you have about this?

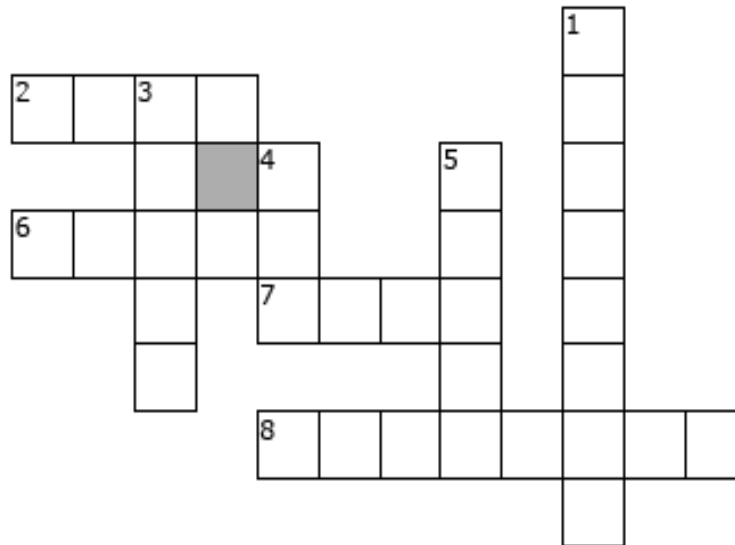
The Shepherd and His Sheep

His sheep follow him because they know his voice.
John 10:4b (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 10:1-10 (NIV)



John 10:1-10



ACROSS

2. An opening in a fence for entrance or exit
6. The sound made when people speak or sing
7. The word or words by which a person or thing is known
8. A person who takes care of sheep

DOWN

1. Someone not known or not familiar
3. Someone who steals
4. A small area surrounded by a fence in which animals are kept
5. A farm animal with thick curly wool

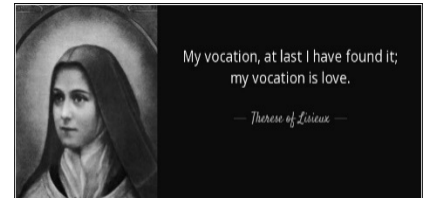
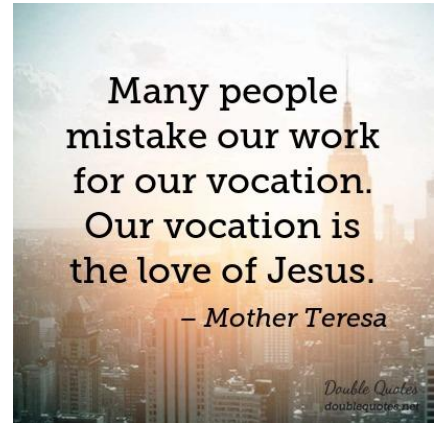
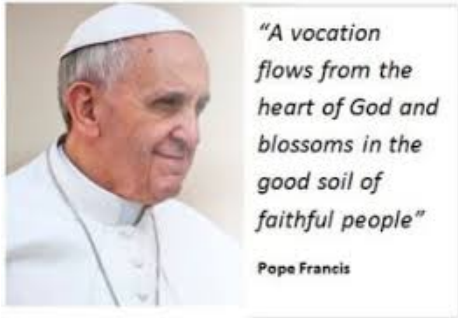
SHEPHERD	THIEF	NAME	VOICE
SHEEP	GATE	STRANGER	PEN



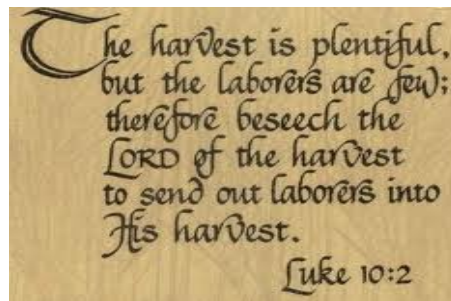
THE CHURCH TEACHES

WHAT IS A VOCATION?

A vocation is all about love. It is a life of love in a concrete, particular form that comes from God. Each vocation begins with God's love for us. In that love for you, God speaks to your heart, and calls you to a particular form of life. Your response is your total gift of self to God.



"You did not choose me, but I chose you"
(Jn 15:16)



The key to discovering your vocation is first to allow Jesus to show His tender love to you. This love will make you capable of loving Him in return.

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, **YOU WILL LEAD ME BY THE RIGHT ROAD,** though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and **YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE ME** to face my perils alone.

- Thomas Merton, "Thoughts in Solitude"

PRAYER FOR WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - April 26

from Pope Francis



Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.

Inspire us daily to respond to Your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.

Help us to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to Your call.

Inspire parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.

Nudge inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about monastic life, apostolic life, missionaries, cloistered contemplative life, and evangelical Franciscan life.

Ignite our Church with the confident humility that there is an urgent need for religious sisters, brothers, deacons, and priests to live in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.

Disrupt our comfortable lives and complacent attitudes with new ideas to respond courageously and creativity with a daily 'YES!' Amen.

