



The readings in today's liturgy encourage us to put our whole trust in God, who is our Good Shepherd. In the Gospel reading, Jesus reveals himself as the Good Shepherd who fulfills the will and promise of the Father to take care of his sheep personally. This promise is expressed by the prophet Ezekiel: "I myself will pasture my sheep. I myself will give them rest... The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal" (Ez 34:15-16a). These words made real in the very life and ministry of Jesus reassure us that God is in our midst, that God never abandons us, and that God is the one who offers us healing and salvation. Jesus himself assures us of his loving care, guidance and protection especially against what threatens our life, peace, and security. Jesus' faithfulness to his mission "to lay down his life for his sheep" mirrors the faithfulness of the Father's love. Jesus declares, "The Father and I are one." Jesus' death on the cross reveals the depth of the Father's love, a love so great and intense that He is willing to give up His Son for the salvation of the world. Jesus' Resurrection is the most evident sign of this love's strength and power, a love that is truly stronger than death. The Father's love is a death-defying love that

## THE FACE OF THE *Good* SHEPHERD

by Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM

transforms darkness into light and grief and despair into boundless joy and hope.

The shepherd-sheep imagery in the Gospel reading points to the intimate connection of Jesus and his disciples established by his death and Resurrection. This connection is expressed in the Father-children imagery in the Second Reading. How reassuring are these words from the First Letter of John: "Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are." This reading also directs our attention to the future and emboldens us with hope: "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

The First Reading gives us an example of what it means to be like Jesus. Once a frightened disciple,

Peter becomes a courageous apostle who goes to the temple with John and heals a crippled beggar. When brought before the assembly of leaders, elders, and scribes and questioned about the healing done to the crippled beggar, Peter confidently proclaims the name of Jesus as the source and the power that heals and saves. Peter has been transformed from being a frightened disciple to a courageous witness by being filled with the Holy Spirit, the Risen Lord Jesus' gift.

As we struggle through these uncertain times and the challenging situations brought about by the pandemic and other calamities, we see how false securities are unmasked, shaken, and crumble. Yet we also see the revelation of the shepherds in our midst: the frontliners who risk their health, safety, and life to attend to the needs of others, to take care of the sick, the poor, the needy, and afflicted, to bring order to the community, to pray and sacrifice for the well-being of all, to bring consolation and solace, to find cure to end the pandemic. We thank God for these people who show the face of the Good Shepherd in our times. May we, who believe in the power of God's love, courageously share this love by following the way

### PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

#### *Becoming a Learning-Teaching Church*

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

In 1995 the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) celebrated its fiftieth year since beginning in 1945 as the Catholic Welfare Organization (CWO). This became an opportunity to review and assess the CBCP's nature, structure, mission, and functions. The CBCP amended its constitution and by-laws; it established new offices dedicated to media, legal matters, research, bioethics, women, and the Church's cultural heritage. The CBCP now (2020) has 35 departments, commissions, and offices to address the many concerns of this local Church. In addition, the bishops relaunched *The CBCP Monitor* in a new format, initiated a weekly radio program, and established the CBCP Website [<http://www.cbcponline.org>].

Responsive to the call for renewal in *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, the CBCP issued a series of exhaustive and in-depth pastoral exhortations, designed to address vital aspects of Philippine life and Christianity. Each document began with a quite thorough and substantive analysis of the carefully chosen topics: Philippine Politics (1997), Philippine Economy (1998), Philippine Culture (1999), and Philippine Spirituality (2000).

The bishops concluded the series with their document: "Missions" and the Church in the Philippines: A Pastoral Letter on the Church's Mission in the New Millennium (July 2000). The CBCP also sponsored the large National Mission Congress in Cebu, which they saw as the "fitting culminating activity" of the Jubilee Year celebrations and the "first step as a local Church into the Third Millennium."

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 33 [32]:5-6)

*(Recited when there is no opening song.)*

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here.)*

**P** — Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All** — **And with your spirit.**

### Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)*

**P** — The Fourth Sunday of Easter is *Good Shepherd Sunday*. This image of Christ speaks of his love, care, and self-giving unto death. It also reminds us of his victory through which we are delivered from a futile way of life.

This Sunday is also *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. We implore the Lord to send “shepherds of souls” who can lead us to him and who, like him, can give themselves for the good of the flock. Let us pray for more vocations bound to serve God through the Church.

### Penitential Act

**P** — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

**All** — **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (strike your breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

**P** — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All** — **Amen.**

**P** — Lord, have mercy.

**All** — **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** — Christ, have mercy.

**All** — **Christ, have mercy.**

**P** — Lord, have mercy.

**All** — **Lord, have mercy.**

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

**P** — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All** — **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### First Reading (Acts 4:8-12) *(Sit)*

*After curing a cripple, Peter and John proclaim before the leaders of Israel that their power comes from Jesus who was crucified but was raised from the dead.*

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

PETER, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: “Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple,

namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. He is *the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone*. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

— The word of the Lord.

**All** — **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118)

**R** — **The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. (or Alleluia.)**

*A. Tuazon*

Solemn



**1.** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,/ for his mercy endures forever./ It is better to take refuge in the LORD/ than to trust in man./ It is better to take refuge in the LORD/ than to trust in princes. **(R)**

**2.** I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me/ and have been my savior./ The stone which the builders rejected/ has become the cornerstone./ By the LORD has this been done;/ it is wonderful in our eyes. **(R)**

**3.** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD;/ we bless you from the house of the LORD./ I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me/ and have been my savior./ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;/ for his kindness endures forever. **(R)**

## Second Reading (1 Jn 3:1–2)

*John invites us to marvel at the grace of God who now calls us his children in his Son Jesus who offered his life for all of us.*

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

BELOVED: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

— The word of the Lord.

**All — Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia (Jn 10:14) (Stand)

**All — Alleluia, alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel (Jn 10:11–18)

**P** — A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
**All — Glory to you, O Lord.**

JESUS said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay

it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

— The Gospel of the Lord.

**All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Homily (Sit)

### Profession of Faith (Stand)

*(Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.)*

**All — I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Faithful

**P** — Let us pray to the Father so that in following his Son Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we may become instruments of his love and care for his people. We implore him and pray:

**R — Lord, graciously hear our prayer.**

**C** — Bless our Holy Father Pope Francis, our bishop N., priests, deacons, and all Church ministers. Give them warm and caring hearts that they may be true shepherds of your people. We pray: **(R)**

**C** — Grant that those in public office may be shepherds to those entrusted to their care, placing

the welfare of others before their private interest and personal comfort. We pray: **(R)**

**C** — Make our families and parishes fertile seedbeds of priestly, religious, and missionary vocations who will continue the mission of the Good Shepherd, seeking out the lost and those outside the fold. We pray: **(R)**

**C** — Inspire more young people to find meaning and happiness in a life that is offered to you and dedicated to the service of their brothers and sisters. We pray: **(R)**

**C** — Embrace our departed loved ones into your loving arms for being with you is their true home. We pray: **(R)**

**C** — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

**P** — God our Father, your Son Jesus has shown us, through his life and teachings, how to serve and worship you. Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd, provide us with laborers who will make the Church the sacrament of your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All — Amen.**



### Presentation of the Gifts (Stand)

**P** — Pray, brethren...

**All — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

**P** — Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All — Amen.**

## Preface II of Easter

**P** — The Lord be with you.  
**All** — **And with your spirit.**

**P** — Lift up your hearts.  
**All** — **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P** — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** — **It is right and just.**

**P** — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

Through him the children of light rise to eternal life and the halls of the heavenly Kingdom are thrown open to the faithful; for his Death is our ransom from death, and in his rising the life of all has risen.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

**All** — **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)**

### Acclamation (Stand)

**All** — **When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

### The Lord's Prayer

**All** — **Our Father...**

**P** — Deliver us, Lord...

**All** — **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

### Invitation to Peace

### Invitation to Communion (Kneel)

**P** — Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.



**JOURNEYS  
OF FAITH**

**OBERAMMERGAU 2022**

*A Passion Play that happens only every 10 years*

## MAY DEPARTURES

**Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein & Switzerland (May 12 - 24, 2022)**  
with Fr. Alex Thomas

**MARIAN JOURNEY (May 13 - Jun 1, 2022)**  
Portugal, Spain, France, Germany & Italy  
with Fr. Arvin Soriano

**CENTRAL EUROPE (May 15 - 28, 2022)**  
Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg & Germany  
with Fr. Jun Sescon

**BALKANS (May 15 - 30, 2022)**  
Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Hercegovina  
with Fr. Jerome "Jigs" Rosalinda

**OBERAMMERGAU DEPARTURES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER.**

**WE ALSO OFFER HOLY LAND, MARIAN, EASTERN EUROPE, BALKANS, GREECE AND TURKEY, MEXICO TOURS & PILGRIMAGES.**

Call us at (+632) 8929-0144 or (+632) 8929-0155  
+63917-5616440 (Globe) & +63999-9935580 (Smart)  
join@journeys.com.ph | www.journeys.com.ph



**All** — **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### Communion Antiphon

**The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

### Prayer after Communion (Stand)

**P** — Let us pray. (Pause)

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All** — **Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

**P** — The Lord be with you.  
**All** — **And with your spirit.**

### Solemn Blessing

**P** — Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing.

**All** — **Amen.**

**P** — May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.

**All** — **Amen.**

**P** — And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on this earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

**All** — **Amen.**

**P** — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All** — **Amen.**

### Dismissal

**P** — Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All** — **Thanks be to God.**

**DO YOU WANT TO  
SUBSCRIBE TO SAMBUHAY DIGITAL  
MISSALETTE?**

For inquiries and orders:

**FB:** Sambuhay Missalette

**EMAIL:** Sambuhay@stpauls.ph

**TEL.:** (02) 8895-9701