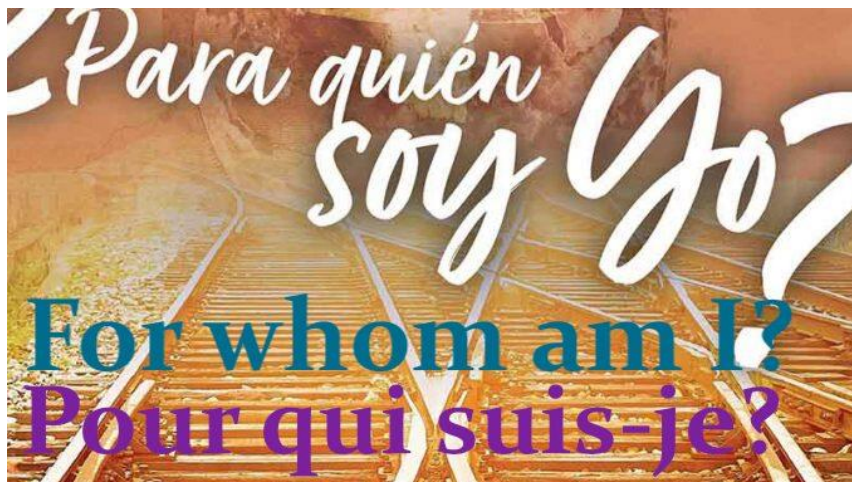


Gospel 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021. IV **Easter** Sunday Cycle B

**SUNDAY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
58<sup>TH</sup> WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS  
AND OF NATIVE VOCATIONS**

**WHAT GOD WANTS FROM ME**



**BEING FOR OTHERS**

**SETTING.**

On Sunday, April 25, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and the Day of Native Vocations are celebrated jointly, organized by the Episcopal Conference, CONFER, CEDIS and OMP, with the slogan **“Whom am I for?”**

This Day aims, on the one hand, to raise in all young people the question of their vocation, opening themselves to God's call and responding “being for others” from a family, a job or a special consecration.

The vocational culture refers to the community to a constant review of its mission and to give an updated interpretation of its sense of being.

The Christian community and society in general promote Christian vocations with prayer and accompaniment.

**SONG.** *Good Shepherd*, Cristobal Fones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O163u0kNDxs>

## **GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN: JN 10,11-18.**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So, when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life, only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

### **DEEPENING THE GOSPEL.**

Obviously, this comparison of the shepherd tells us less than it does to Jesus' contemporaries. Especially because whoever speaks of a shepherd speaks of a flock and we do not dream of being compared to a flock! But we must place ourselves in the biblical context: at that time, the flock was, without a doubt, the only wealth of its owner; just look at how the book of Job describes the opulence and then the ruin of its hero.

God is compared to a shepherd, the flock is the people of Israel, for example: “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing..” (Ps 22/23) “Shepherd of Israel, listen, you who lead your flock, shine...” (Ps 79/80).

Unfortunately, dreams exist, the ideal, and then the reality... the kings of Israel, like all others, have often betrayed their mission, have forgotten that they are but God's lieutenants and have sought their own interest and not the interest of his people. The prophets have spoken harsh words against these kings: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have fed themselves!” (Ezek 34:2).

But, through or despite all disappointments, believers never lose hope. Since the true shepherd of Israel is God Himself, and God is faithful, they know they are in good hands. And they are still waiting the ideal king, the one who will guard his flock in the name of God. A king who will be a docile instrument in the hands of God.

So, when Jesus attributes to Himself the title of Good Shepherd, He means exactly: “I am the Messiah you are waiting for, the Savior, I am.” On the other hand, his interlocutors were not wrong. St. John notes in the verses that follow that this statement caused division among the Jews. Later, the Christians discovered what Ezekiel could not yet guess: that really the

Messiah would be, not only a lieutenant of God, but the Son of God Himself. His royal scepter will be his cross: “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself” (Jn 12:32).

Jesus, shepherd who freely gives his life up, responds well to the portrait of the Servant described by Isaiah. John points out the freedom of Jesus and it is normal because isn't freedom the first attribute of a king? And John tells us: Here is the awaited king, not the one presented by the magazines, but the one who will be fully ready to save his people. Decidedly, God's ways are not our ways.

## **CLUES FOR THE PRAYER.**

1. Why does the Messiah present Himself as a shepherd? How does Jesus understand being a shepherd? What are the characteristics of the good shepherd and the bad shepherd?
2. How does Jesus live the giving up of his life? How does He live freedom?
3. How do you live your call, your surrender? Do you give yourself up freely?
4. What is Jesus calling you to today?

## **WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS FROM ME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMBIENTAL MUSIC.** Soft piano with sounds of water.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf\\_YemfEaDs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf_YemfEaDs)

**YOU PRONOUNCED MY NAME.** Prayer for Vocations.

You are in every small  
detail of my life.

Your presence generates in me  
creative moments.

You call and propose,  
in the simplicity of what is daily.

You tell me, you really can!

You call to be  
welcome, humility, heroism;

in my vast vital space,  
in the one who is close,  
if not, to what?

You call to be with the small ones,  
your favourite ones.

You call to express  
the vocation we have within us,  
with which we are graced  
from the poured out deep joy.  
You call to say YES,  
to be person,  
to be one among many,  
to follow the path of surrender,  
to follow the dream of God,  
to be brethren, friend.  
To say YES  
is opening heart and hands,  
to approach the other person and  
to walk beside her,  
to make life more fraternal and  
more human,  
to generate possibility and  
to export it,  
To open doors and  
to invite to the table,  
to express kindness and  
tenderness,  
to want to welcome and  
to be with all,  
to opt and to answer  
God's call,  
who counts on you.  
May God's dream inspire your YES.  
May service be your brand.  
May your fidelity dwell in your path.  
I want to say YES.

(58<sup>th</sup> WDPV, scsa)

**SONG. "To do your will", Ixcis (Official Lyric Video).**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHZyC\\_W\\_nLo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHZyC_W_nLo)



**Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne. Zaragoza**  
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