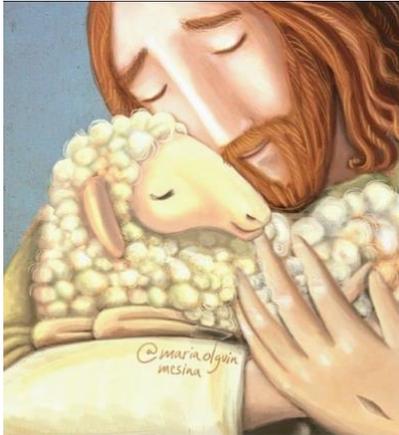




Prayer for Vocations
April 25, 2021



Gospel according to Saint John 10: 11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because

I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.”¹

Points for reflection:

Jesus calls himself the keeper of his flock. He belongs to his sheep as the sheep belong to him. This reciprocal relationship that he wants to establish with humanity is interesting, positioning himself through the bond of love that makes us belong to one another.

Where there is love, there is concern and recognition. Concern about being attentive to everyone. Recognition of one another for what/who she is. Knowing and attending to them in their individuality and, in turn, the sheep recognize the voice of the one who cares for and loves them. We only love what we know and we recognize the voice of the one who loved us first, the one who situates us as women in constant discernment. To be able to identify in the midst of so many voices, the call to be a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

It is Jesus whom we follow. Everything else is a means to reach the Heart of Jesus. In the Heart of the Good Shepherd, where everyone is welcomed to form one single flock, we are also shown that there are other sheep that are not from the corral, but who must also lead. It is an invitation to look beyond our horizons and cultures, to be shepherds who summon other women to come into this fold in the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

¹ Illustration María Olguín Mesina, Barcelona.



Some questions that can help when sharing:

- The Good Shepherd means a consistency between being and doing. In what way does my doing manifest my being? Do I live in a balanced way?
- How am I expressing or how can I express the love of the Heart of Jesus to women so that they ask themselves the question about religious life in the midst of this reality?

After sharing, we invite you to:

- Give thanks for the goodness of the Father, a goodness that invites us to be kind, to share what each one has received as a gift during our religious life so that other women can discover their vocation to be shepherds.
- Let us pray for the women who are wondering about the option of religious life, especially for the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (We can name a few women who are interested.)
- Let us also ask that Madeline Sophie send “adorers” to the Society of the Sacred Heart, and that the Lord helps us to be a testimony of her love and to welcome new generations.
- Open intentions ...
- End with the Prayer for Vocations