

Here I am Lord,
send me!

Isaiah 6:8



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we listen to these words of Jesus in today's Gospel, they take on added meaning because we are in the Easter season. We have celebrated Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus had to die to himself to live his new life. Jesus has shown us how to live life to the fullest; we must die to ourselves in order to rise to new life. Our secularized world thinks it has the answer to our needs but what it offers only leads us into deeper despair.

We could apply the following words of Jesus today to the false notions of happiness offered to us by the world today:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. (John 10:10)

Only dying to ourselves as we follow Jesus will lead us to the happiness we seek. Jesus teaches us that the way to happiness lies not in filling up each of our wants and needs and desires. The way to happiness lies in a very different choice of life; the way to happiness may be found in sacrificing and taking up our cross with Jesus, reproducing the life of Jesus in our own lives. And so Jesus says,

I am the gate.

Whoever enters through me will be saved,

and will come in and go out and find pasture. (John 10:9)

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.
(John 10:10)

Saint Pope John Paul II encouraged people many times to find life to the full by following Jesus as he said words like, "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ!" (Homily of Pope John Paul II at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, NY on October 6, 1995). The shepherd brought the sheep into the sheepfold every night. It was a circular stone wall with an opening or door where the sheep entered. Once the sheep were inside for the night, the gatekeeper slept in that opening or door all night. The sheep could not get out without stepping over the gatekeeper's body which meant they would not get out at all during the night. Jesus is the gate; anyone who enters through him will be safe and will go freely in and out and find pasture. Others steal and kill and destroy but Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Saint John Paul II declared the fourth Sunday of Easter a Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray that many may listen to the voice of Jesus as he calls, that they may enter the sheepfold through him and have life more abundantly.

Have a Blessed Easter Season 2026!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza
Pastor

