

## Fourth Sunday of Easter 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, we believe and profess, that the Lord Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to His beloved people the Jews; however, we also believe and profess that He was sent by the Father to gather all peoples into His one Flock, the spiritual Israel. He was sent to be the Messiah, and the Redeemer according to the ancient promises of God in the Hebrew Scriptures; and even then, God's love could not be contained, and He promised through His prophets to extend this love throughout the world. That is why Jesus says to us: "I have other sheep, who are not of this flock, and these also I must lead...!" We also believe that Jesus, our Christ and Savior, has received Lordship, not just over the tiny flock of Israel and Judah, but over the whole of the creation.

In Jesus, all have come under the one Lordship of the Divine Shepherd, who is the one Pastor of One Flock: all of the Bishop and Priests and Deacons of the Church throughout History, have been chosen by God to be His shepherds under the One Divine Shepherd. We are called, in a special way, to constantly guard, protect, lead and guide, to sanctify the beloved ones of God, through Jesus, with Him and In Him! However, all of us, however, belong to this one Flock of the Lord.

The devil and his minions will do everything to scatter and tear apart the sheep. The Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who was attacked and killed in His passion, death, did not perish, and in as much as we are united with Him by our Baptism, our faith, the Sacraments and Prayer, even if we are persecuted, even if the walls fall down around us, even though we may have to suffer and die with Him in a like passion, nor will we perish. The devil, the wolf, has done his worst, and Jesus has triumphed over sin and death! It is because the Church is now mystically united with the Lord Jesus Christ in one Baptism, one Faith and under One Lord, that it will never fail! It is Jesus' Flock! It may grow smaller, and even be reduced to basements and secret meadows, but it will never fail!

The Lord Jesus is our Good Shepherd, constantly at work in our lives and in history to bring us into His own Divine life and Glory, and this is why we are called by our Baptism and our Faith to be His agents of the Good News, to bring everyone into His One Flock, His Catholic, Holy and Apostolic Church that has been entrusted

with His Truth that saves us, so that they will not be ravaged by the terrible wolf seeking to destroy us! I do not have a private faith, constantly, Jesus through the Holy Spirit is providing opportunities to bring others into His protection and Glory! But, I have to trust Him, that He will indeed work through me!

So, how do I grow in this Trust in the Divine Shepherd? First, by constant prayer- outside of the Mass, the Holy Rosary is the preeminent means God gives us to grow in trust and Holiness, because it keeps us rooted in the Divine Mysteries of our Salvation by its meditations on the Gospel. We grow in trust by Adoration of the Living Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist- He is truly present by His own Divine Word, He cannot lie! We grow by remembering constantly His Divine Goodness and Blessings to us; for He is constantly at work within us for our Good. And, we grow in Faith and Trust, by exercising it by giving our Faith and our Trust away to others who God the Holy Spirit sends us! I am constantly encountering people who ask me about our Catholic Faith- They don't need St. Thomas Aquinas, they need your love and experience of being loved and moved by God, your simple invitation- share how important your Catholic Faith is to you! Finally, ask God to make you His instrument of evangelization spreading the Good News- because the eternal salvation of souls is at stake!