“THE SHEEP RECOGNIZE HIS VOICE”

by Fr. Jeremy Myers

John 10:1-10

Today we celebrate “Good Shepherd Sunday,” as we do each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Prior to Vatican II, this special occasion was celebrated on the Third Sunday of Easter. The name derives from the gospel selection for this Sunday, which is taken each year from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John. As many of us may recall, it is here that Jesus identifies himself as the good shepherd that lays down his life for his sheep. The shepherd and sheep imagery extends through much of Chapter 10. So today we hear from Jesus that his sheep hear his voice and “they follow him because they recognize his voice.” He tells the Pharisees that the sheep will not follow a stranger; “they will run away from him because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” We find in these words a beautiful image for the closeness between shepherd and sheep, between the Risen Lord and his followers. We also find our calling here—to recognize the voice of the Lord and to follow him. We find our strength and our salvation in the Lord Jesus, not in any other voices that may try to distract us or lead us away from our Good Shepherd. Michelle Sanchez, a professor at Harvard University, shared the difficult time she had some time ago when everything seemed to test her spirits. She had begun her first year teaching at Harvard, which was stressful enough. Three weeks into the semester, her dad passed away. A month after that, she and her husband were evicted from their apartment. Then, a month later, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. If all of that were not enough, she herself was diagnosed with adrenal fatigue in the spring and didn’t recover until the summer. As she reflects on those months, she shares the story of how she had volunteered to be the pianist for her church—before any of these setbacks occurred. She explains, “The church I attend is not a wealthy one, so it is difficult to find a skilled musician who is willing to work dependably for what we can pay. I grew up playing the piano in church. It’s a routine I know well. I know all the songs inside and out and it’s a skill that comes easily to me. It’s something I enjoy. Thanks to my day job at Harvard, I don’t need extra cash. Still, the most stressful year of my life seems like a strange time to take on a pro bono side gig as a church musician. Honestly, if the position had opened up even one month later, I might never have agreed to start.” She admits that “in many ways it was precisely the additional ‘job’ that saved her sanity during such a hard year.” She admits, “There were so many weeks that it would have been tempting just to sleep in or to spend those hours on Sunday with Netflix, in order to simply rest. But I couldn’t because I had to be there. There had to be music.” She learned several things in the process. “Being in that space meant being surrounded by loved ones. Being in that simple sanctuary every week furnished me with a broader sense of self by de-centering my own central importance.” She says, “When I played that music, my body became a conduit through which the bonds between all of the people gathered there grew stronger as we sang together.” It was exactly what she needed. We could say that she heard the voice of the Good Shepherd, despite all the crises of her life. She heard his call to her that she become a source of peace and support for his flock. She shows us our vocation as followers of Jesus.

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC PARISH

SHERMAN, TEXAS

MAY 7, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS

May 8 - 14, 2017

Monday, May 8—Easter Weekday
8:00 a.m. †Tyler McGuire by Mac McGuire
Noon †Ann Pantuso by Don & Beth Williams
(Bilingual) Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18

Tuesday, May 9—Easter Weekday
8:00 a.m. Intentions of Luke and Reid Cowan and Mary by Debbie Mitchell
Noon Communion Service
Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

Wednesday, May 10—Easter Weekday
9:30 a.m. †Dee Rome by Janet Garvert

Thursday, May 11—Easter Weekday
8:00 a.m. †Alton Hooker by Teresa Petter

Friday, May 12—Easter Weekday
8:00 a.m. †Rev. Lawrence Haberman by Ed (Bilingual) Szafranski
Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

Saturday, May 13—Easter Weekday
4:30 p.m. Mother’s Day Novena
Acts 6:1-7; John 14:1-12

Sunday, May 14—Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Mother’s Day Novena
10:30 a.m. Mother’s Day Novena
12:30 p.m. Mother’s Day Novena
Acts 6:1-7; John 14:1-12

STEWARDSHIP FOR APRIL 30, 2017

NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET $14,500.00
RECEIVED $15,428.00
DIFFERENCE $ 928.00
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE $ 8,777.83

May God bless you for your generous spirit.

“May God bless you for your generous spirit.”

Harvey B. Mackay
Congratulations to the one hundred twenty-nine children who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. May they stay close to the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist all their days, strengthened and nourished by his food and drink.

World Day of Prayer is observed today, Sunday, May 7th, also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord’s call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and suffering, especially Jackie Alvarez, Lillian Fallon (sister-in-law of Delia Fallon), and Amy Heinen (daughter of Ted & Cindy Miller). May they feel the power of Jesus’ healing embrace.

Please remember in your prayers all the faithful departed, especially Tomas Garza (nephew of Mary Garcia), who died recently in California; and Odilia Lopez, who died recently and was buried at St. Mary’s Cemetery. May they be saved through the grace of Jesus our Savior.

St. Mary’s Women’s Guild will meet this Monday, May 8th, at 11 a.m. in the Parish Center. We will attend Mass at noon and then return to the Parish Center to enjoy a potluck luncheon. This will be our last meeting until September.

Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree, will meet this Wednesday, May 10th, at 7 p.m. at the Denison KC Hall.

Please join us in wishing many blessings to Mary Moses, who is celebrating her 90th birthday this Thursday, May 11th. May her special day be blessed with much happiness.

St. Mary’s Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet this Thursday, May 11th, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne’s Place.

We want to wish a happy anniversary to all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary this week, especially Bobby & Becky Bauer and Marvin & Shirley Tischler. May they be blessed with much happiness on their special day.

Middle school and high school youth groups will not meet this Sunday due to it being First Communion weekend at St. Mary’s Parish. Both middle school and high school youth groups will meet next Saturday, May 13th, from 2:30 - 4 p.m. in the McCullough Center and kitchen. We will be preparing something very special for our moms for Mother’s Day. Please contact Heidi at hscheibmeir@stmarych.org if your youth can attend. We want to make sure and get enough ingredients for that day.

There will be a second collection next weekend for the completion of the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Your prayerful and financial support will not only adorn this “Crowning Jewel” and complete Mary’s Shrine, but will also leave a lasting legacy for generations to come in this living monument to our Catholic faith and heritage that is America’s Catholic Church.

St. Mary’s Singles monthly potluck dinner and game night is this Saturday, May 13th, at St. Anne’s Place following the Saturday afternoon Mass. Come join the fun. Please no perfume or cologne. Call Jo Adams at 903-814-7265 or Jan Lackey at 903-532-6586 or email singles@stmarych.org for more information.

Shepherds of Life will have orchid corsages available before and after all Masses Mother’s Day weekend at St. Anne’s Plaza for $10 each, until all gone. Proceeds will go to White Rose Women’s Center/St. Joseph’s Helpers which assists women and saves the unborn.

Save the Date - 28th annual Wayne Kottwitz Memorial Golf Tournament will be on Saturday, June 10th, at Tanglewood Resort beginning at 8 a.m. Visit www.shermankcs.com for entry forms and information.

What’s happening in our youth groups? Last Sunday, both youth groups went to the Grayson County Shelter to donate items and volunteer with different service projects. Thanks to all youth and adult volunteers who helped. It was a wonderful afternoon for all!