

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE DYNAMISM OF LOVE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



On this Sunday, **Christ presents himself to us as the "shepherd of all humanity."** This good news does not only concern faithful believers. It is for all men and women throughout the world. The first images of the Good Shepherd that come to mind are those of paintings depicting Him standing among numerous sheep, holding a curved staff and a sheep in His arms. This representation, with dozens of variations, was found in the pictures given to us by teachers at school.

In any case, this image of a young man carrying the sheep on his back allowed me to identify with the shepherd. It nourished my entire journey toward priestly ordination, and it has never disappeared from my horizon.

The priest will always be the image of the Good Shepherd, the one who carries on his shoulders the sheep entrusted to his care. He will not hesitate to welcome them whoever they are, he will always be there as witnessed by holy priests like Saint Francis de Sales, the Curé of Ars or Padre Pio and as many confreres still do today in the field responding to their calls and cries.

These images reveal to us, without exhausting them, the riches of the figure of the Good Shepherd that **Jesus claims: "I am the good shepherd, the true shepherd, who gives his life for his sheep." (John 10:11). One: "My sheep listen to my voice, I know them, and they follow me."**

There is a bond of heart, an intimacy between the pastor and the sheep. They share a listening, a path, a mutual knowledge. Intimacy and closeness are essential characteristics of the relationship between the pastor and the members of the people of God.

This Sunday of the Good Shepherd does not turn our gaze towards the pastors themselves, but towards the One who is the Shepherd of pastors, the Risen Jesus, always living in our Christian communities through the signs of the Bread and Wine shared each Sunday and through his Word received in the Church.

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Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – May 11, 2025**