

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

JESUS SHEPHERD OF ALL HUMANITY



Today is the day of prayer for Vocations. Pope Paul VI established it in 1963 and set it on the 4th Sunday of Easter. When we talk about Vocations, we think of priests and religious men and women. But in the Biblical texts of this Sunday, the most important thing is to **discover Christ who presents himself to us as the good shepherd.**

This good shepherd is an attentive observer; He knows each of His sheep; no two are alike; they are all unique. **Whoever we are, we are valuable in His eyes.** This conviction of Faith must lead us to thanksgiving for everything that is given to us. This also means that everyone has his/her own vocation: **all states of life are vocations, not only priests and religious, but also marriage, presence in the world.** We are all called a particular vocation in the service of all. It is together, in communion with the whole Church, that we participate in the mission of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Finally, the Good Shepherd tells us that He has other sheep in other folds. He cares; He wants to gather them all into one flock in UNITY. When He says this, He is not only thinking of good Christians; **He also thinks of all those who do not know God, those who organize their lives without Him and outside of Him; He also sees those who fight Christian hope or deride it. Both are known and loved by God.** We are sent into this world as it is to be witnesses and messengers of this good news.

What is first is this unimaginable revelation of a God whose name is "Love". We were immersed there on the day of our baptism. **"My beloved, see how great is the LOVE with which the Father has filled us. He wanted us to be children of God."** It's a truly extraordinary experience. It's less about loving than knowing we are loved by Him. For us, it began on the day of our baptism, and it develops throughout our lives. A day will come when we attain perfect likeness to the Son of God. **"We will be like Him because we will see Him as He is."** You just must let yourself be loved.

If we are going to commune with the Body and Blood of Christ it is to draw from the source of this LOVE which is in God, it is to enter this project which animates Jesus. So yes, we pray to You Lord: **Give us strength and courage to remain faithful to this mission that You entrust to us.**

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

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