



Bringing Home the Word

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

June 18, 2023

Showing Us the Way Home

Mary Katharine Deeley

At the ranch where my mother lived in her adolescence, sheep wandered through pastures of grass and shrubs. When it came time to gather them into the corral at night, the ranch hands would get the dogs out and set them to work running around and behind the sheep to keep them together while the hands drove them in the right direction.

Occasionally a young lamb or an injured ewe would fall, and the man closest would pick the animal up with a tenderness that seemed out of character with callouses and sunburned, weathered skin. When we visited the ranch, I

remember vividly the look and smell of the sheep and that the ranch hands thought they were dumb.

While the sheep may not have been the smartest of animals, they knew the men and the promise of a safe pen and water at the end of the hot day undoubtedly made the job easier. From my mother's stories, I remember most the way she described the sheep herders. They did not lead the sheep so much as walk with or behind them. They became part of the procession, rather than the head of it. This kept the sheep calm and moved them faster.

When Jesus looked at the crowd, he saw a people that needed someone to walk with them and show them the way. They needed someone occasionally to go behind them to pick up the strays and the wounded and carry them tenderly home. This is what Jesus does for us. In his compassion, he brings us to pasture and, at the end, he gathers all people into his one flock and guides them home. †

Sunday Readings

Exodus 19:2–6a

[The Lord said to Moses:] You will be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.

Romans 5:6–11

God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:36–10:8

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

When Jesus looked at the crowd, he saw a people that needed someone to walk with them and show them the way.

A Word from Pope Francis

To see and to have compassion are always found together in the attitude of Jesus: in fact his gaze is not the gaze of a sociologist or a photojournalist, for he always gazes with “the eyes of the heart.” These two verbs, to see and to have compassion, configure Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

ANGELUS, ROME, JULY 19, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Who is more effective: one who scolds and gives orders or one who encourages and guides?
- Which one are you?

St. Joseph, the Model for All Fathers

Br. Daniel Korn, CSsR



There is an infinite difference between the judgments of God and our human judgments. If human views had directed divine Providence, some powerful monarch or some learned scholar would have been chosen as the foster father of his Son. But no earthly monarch, no famous scholar was considered worthy of so exalted an office. The just and humble Joseph was the chosen one.

As foster father of the Divine Child, Joseph was the first man to learn of the mystery of the Incarnation. He was the first to have the supreme honor of beholding the newborn infant, adoring him, and taking him into his arms. It was Joseph's privilege also to bestow the holy name of Jesus on the infant God. It

was his privilege to join with our Lady in presenting Jesus in the Temple. It was Joseph who saved the Child from death at the hands of Herod's soldiers, providing him and his Virgin Mother with food and shelter during the long and painful flight into Egypt, the lonely residence of the Holy Family in their exile in a foreign land. How glorious was the office entrusted to Joseph, and what a brilliant light it sheds on his surpassing sanctity!

A Father's Prayer for His Children

Saint Joseph, I come to you with my concerns for the welfare of my children. I recall your anxiety when, to your surprise and Mary's, Jesus was not among your relatives and friends on your return from Jerusalem. I too worry about my children. Many dangers surround the youth of today. Sometimes, in my loving concern for them, I may seem to them to be difficult or even harsh. Help me to remove the barriers that may come between my children and myself. I love my children and desire good and wholesome things for them. Good Saint Joseph, watch over my children and inspire me to know how to speak and act in love. Saint Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for me. Amen. †

Putting the Pieces Together

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being pestered by his daughter. To keep her busy, he tore a sheet out of the magazine that had a picture of the world printed on it. He tore the picture into small pieces and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this picture of the world back together again."

Just a few minutes later, the daughter appeared in the room and handed him the picture all correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked her how she was able to fit all the little pieces of the world together again so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper was a picture of Jesus. Once I got Jesus in the right place, the world came out all right." †



*Compassionate God,
inspire us to speak gently,
act kindly, and share generously
so that everyone we meet
may feel safe, valued, and loved.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

**The humble Joseph was entrusted with the office
to look out for the Son of God.**

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 19–24

Monday, Weekday:

2 Cor 6:1–10 / Mt 5:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday:

2 Cor 8:1–9 / Mt 5:43–48

Wednesday, St. Aloysius Gonzaga:

2 Cor 9:6–11 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday, Weekday:

2 Cor 11:1–11 / Mt 6:7–15

Friday, Weekday:

2 Cor 11:18, 21–30 / Mt 6:19–23

Saturday, Nativity of St. John the Baptist:

Is 49:1–6 / Acts 13:22–26 / Lk 1:57–66, 80

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