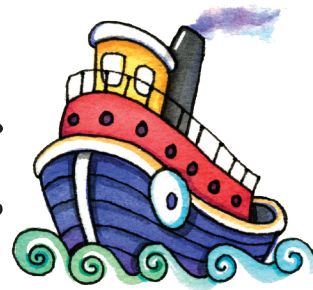


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



April 22, 2018 Cycle B, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Volume IV, Issue 21

“A” Good Shepherd



- In ancient times, a shepherd was a person who watched over the sheep and protected them against wolves and robbers.

- Shepherds carried a wooden staff to

chase off any who wanted the sheep for food or wool.

- At night, the shepherds would lie down in the mud at the entrance to the sheep's pen to fend off all threats.

- Shepherds would stay with the sheep all day and all night to keep them safe.

- Sometimes herds of sheep would meet as they grazed. The shepherds would let them feed, and, in the morning, each shepherd would make their own call or whistle so the sheep knew who to follow.

- Being a shepherd was considered a lowly job because you lived with the sheep in muddy fields. People did not think much of shepherds, but God did. They were among the first to be told that the Savior was born, and so became some of Jesus' first visitors!

- The shepherd would carry the lamb on his shoulder if it fell behind and couldn't keep up.

- When sheep run away, shepherds go to bring them back, searching high and low.

- The sheep begin and end every day with their shepherd.

“THE” Good Shepherd

- Jesus says, “I am the Good Shepherd.” Jesus is not just ‘A’ Good Shepherd, He is The Perfect Shepherd. Conquering sin, He has saved us from evil.

- Jesus carried a wooden cross up to Calvary and, conquering death by His death, made the Cross the doorway to eternal life.

- Laying down His life, Jesus left us the Eucharist to keep us safe from threats. He did not leave us defenseless.

- Jesus is always with us, “And behold, I am with you always, *until the end of the age.*” (Matthew 28:20)

- We live in a world where we can get lost. But Jesus knows each of us by name. He calls us if we wander. We know His voice and we follow Him, meeting at the altar of worship where He feeds us.

- Jesus was poor. He ate with tax collectors, touched lepers, and comforted outcasts. He was often looked down on. But, God the Father was proud of His Son, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Jesus now sits at the Father's right hand.

- The Good Shepherd carries us through tough times and never lets us go.

- When we wander away and sin, Jesus spends our entire life showing us the way back.

- We began our days with The Good Shepherd and we pray and plan to live our eternal life with Him!



Witness: Our Senses!

Peter reveals an interesting 'witness' to God's truth: our senses! A fisherman, Peter was used to knowing when something smelled 'fishy' in the world around him. In today's First Reading, he uses something a bit different to notice that things were a little fishy: his 'spiritual nose.' Just as our physical senses keep our physical bodies safe from harm, our spiritual senses keep our spiritual body from danger.

Peter's moral sense told him that the Temple elders challenging him wanted to get him to betray Jesus. They pretended they did not know by whose power the Apostles healed the sick. Smelling the odor of deception, Peter boldly proclaimed, in words similar

to these:

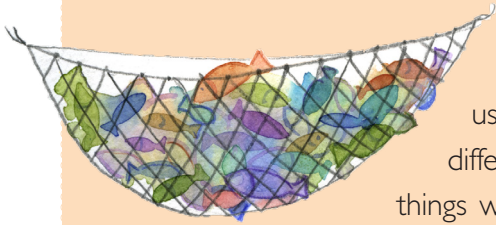
"You know

in whose name we

are healing! But if you want it said, then let me shout it to the entire nation: "We heal by the power of the one you crucified, Jesus Christ!"

Through the Holy Spirit we are able to notice the smells that come from lies and half-truths, from both others and even ourselves. We can even detect the hint of anger, envy, or ill-will that might sneak into our hearts, separating us from God. If the Spirit of Truth points this out to us, we can then take action to return to Jesus' side.

Stay tuned – we will be looking at other moral and spiritual senses in the weeks to come. Can you guess what they might be?



Defective Tugboat Challenge



On this fourth Sunday of *The Great Sunday* we find evidence that the Holy Spirit is present in our spirits! Try finding the following passages. Then, record the 'footprints' you find that say, "The Holy Spirit is here!"

1. **Acts 4:31** _____

2. **Titus 3:5** _____

3. **2 Corinthians 3:18** _____

4. **Galatians 5:22-23** _____

Answers: The Holy Spirit is present when... 1. we give witness to the Word of God boldly and courageously. 2. we are renewed, transformed, being changed into God's likeness, and 4. we see fruits of the Holy Spirit being produced in us.

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