

**Happy mothers, Day. I hope you have a Blessed day filled with love, peace, and Joy**

## **Fourth Sunday Of Easter, Cycle C, 2022**

In the first reading, when Paul and Barnabas visited Antioch, they went first to the synagogue to preach the word of God to Jews and converts to Judaism. On the following Sabbath, almost the whole city came to hear them preach. The Jewish leaders became jealous of them and encouraged the authorities to expel them from the city. We may start a wonderful project/ministry that may cause others to be jealous of the project/ministry and to wish to stop it. Because Paul and Barnabas were forced to leave, their mission to the other gentile cities flourished. In spite of been expelled from Antioch, that city would become a major center for the followers of Jesus. It was at Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians. What were they called before? (People of the Way) Do not be discouraged at the loss/stoppage of your project to help others, God can lead you to a better and greater ministry, if your desire is to continue to serve him.

The second reading is a vision of one who is able to witness those standing around the throne of God. There are 144,000 Jews and plus uncountable gentiles.

When the Jehovah witness comes to your door, you will be told that only 144, 000 people will be saved, 12,000 from every tribe of Israel. This is symbolic number to represent a lot of Jews (the multiplication of twelve times twelve and then by one thousand). The members of this sect omit the passage that immediately follows, which is today's second reading.

*“I, John, had a vision of a great multitude,  
which no one could count,  
from every nation, race, people, and tongue  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,”*

If they ever quote the passage about the 144,000, just ask them to read on.

In Jesus' time and even today in the Middle East there are watering "holes" for sheep and goats. They consist of troughs thirty

feet long and three feet wide from which twenty sheep on each side can drink. There could be as many as twenty troughs at a large station. Therefore, as many as 800 sheep can drink at the same time. At a busy station there could be as many as 2000 sheep. The shepherd brings his flock to the watering station and waits. When he believes that all his sheep have had their fill, he begins to leave and makes his special call and amazingly all his sheep (several hundred) will follow him, leaving the other sheep behind which belong to other flocks. This is the image that the words of Jesus invoked in his listeners. Jesus' desire is to guide and protect us as he did for the early church. His disciples trusted him completely and followed him obediently. Can we do the same?

You will not hear him call, or his directions unless you are listening to his words in the liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist. For Jesus to be present to you, you have to present to him. If teenagers are busy with their electronic gadgets, they will not hear their parents' voice calling them. Therefore we need to remove any distractions, so that we can pay attention to God who speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word and the Eucharist.

Sometimes, we may be anxious about a situation or have a serious problem to resolve. We have to place it at the foot of the altar silently, and to stop obsessing about it for a while, so that we can listen to Jesus who will speak to our heart. He comes to us in our need, as he came walking on the water to rescue his disciples whose boat was being tossed about by a storm. Believe in the Good Shepherd and trust in him. Listen to his voice and follow his advice obediently. Jesus can only be present to you, if you are present and attentive to him.

There is a parallel between slavery and abortion. Both are based on how you define a slave or the baby in the mother's womb. The Supreme court decision in the Dred Scott case was

that a slave was the property of the owner and therefore the owner could do as he pleased with his property. The pro-abortionist do not define the child in the womb as a person but a thing, the property of the mother. Therefore she should be able to do as she pleases with her property. Science has disproved the erroneous idea in Roe vs Wade that stated that for the first three months, there was no baby but simply a mass of tissue.

Science can detect a heartbeat at six weeks old and ultra images show the gradual growth of a baby. Rather than outlaw all abortions after six weeks, the justices decided to punt the ball. Therefore they overturned Roe vs Wade and asked the individual states to decide. Of course there will be States, such as California, New York, New Jersey, and others which will retain the existing laws, including late term abortion.

It is a shame that pro-abortionists are promoting violence against the Catholic Church : property damage and disruption of services, and our so called "catholic " president has not condemned this behavior. If you disagree with this regime there will use all means to shut you up.