Fourth Sunday of Easter — May 3, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Fr. Dismas Clark, SJ, was widely known as the "hoodlum priest" because he dedicated twenty-five years of his priestly life to "hoodlums," that is men and women who had committed crimes. They were also Christ's sheep. Some he saved from prison cells, some from the death sentence. He built a "half- way house" called "Dismas House" and there he helped prison inmates who were rejected by public society after their release from prison, to make the necessary transition to re-entry into ordinary life, He always maintained that the only saint that was canonized by Christ personally was a "hoodlum", namely, the thief on the cross. And he constantly went after those lost and straying sheep, just as the Master did.

A very appealing picture is drawn for us this weekend in the Gospel, that of a shepherd in Palestine caring for his flock, and it truly reflects the intimate relation of Christ to His faithful followers. The shepherd knows his sheep. He is not a stranger to them. When they were born, he put a mark on each one and gave it a name. Thus, he is really interested in each one and this interest continues day after day as he accompanies them in their wanderings. All the more does Christ know his sheep. From the very moment that they became His own in baptism, he is vitally interested in each one of them individually. He put an indelible mark on them which is never to be effaced. They belong to him now and he will be their loving shepherd.

A true shepherd takes good care of his sheep. He places them in a sheep- fold or sheep-pen which he has built for them, where they can all gather together, giving warmth and energy to one another, safe from all intruders who would harm them. Christ the Good Shepherd has instituted His Church to which He entrusted His sheep. He gave her His own powers, His own Presence, His own Spirit, and the solemn assurance that all who remain in her would be safe from all harmful elements against faith and morals. In that Church, they enjoy the company of many others who have the same ideals as they do, and they impart the warmth of love and the energy of good example to one another. This mutual help and example enables the entire flock to proceed onward toward the goal with security and confidence.

We owe respect and obedience to our lawful pastors and the shepherds of Christ' flock. Despite human limitations and defects, they represent Christ Himself. They too will have to give an account of their stewardship. But unless the sheep cooperate with the shepherd, how can the flock reach its destiny.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 5**	**N/A**
Dioscoro Militar †		Lily Militar
Wed.	**May 6**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**May 7**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**May 8**	**N/A**
Gloria Banaga †		Bob & Lydia
Sat.	**May 9**	**N/A**
Mother's Day Novena		
Sun.	**May 10**	**N/A**
Mother's Day Novena		
Port Costa		**N/A**
Mother's Day Novena		

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