

Bulletin: Easter 04 A 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will be updating our App throughout the month. Please download it if you haven't already. Open the following link on your phone or tablet. <https://mypari.sh/fdv>

The mission talk at Sacred Heart in Wasilla was a huge success. I raised almost half of our yearly budget for the Airplane. One Bread One Body sends us 30 thousand per year to cover my salary/insurance/operations of Holy Rosary. As for the plane and the Saint Paul Mission, the Archdiocese helps me to find parishes in the United States where I can give mission talks to raise the \$15,000 yearly budget for the airplane (gas, insurance, parking, maintenance, electricity, etc).

Con-validation at the 11:30 Mass at Sacred Heart in Wasilla April 30, 2017, from left to right, Cassie, August, Mike, Jeanette, me, and Monika (the Mansls).



HOMILY

ICELAND

Iceland is located in the North Atlantic Ocean and is an island country the size of Kentucky. It is a beautiful and interesting. I was stationed there in the Air Force from 1977-1978. One of my favorite pictures of Iceland is a picture of green rolling hills, covered with tundra, with a pool of water in the background. Three Icelandic sheep are grazing.

PONDERING NO SHEPHERD

I was intrigued with the Icelandic sheep. They ran wild all over the island. There are no fences in Iceland. I saw no sheep dogs or shepherds. I pondered the idea of sheep without a shepherd. First, they could not stray far because they would run into the ocean. Second, if they strayed they would not get eaten because there are no predators on Iceland.

ICELANDIC SHEPHERDS NEEDED

However, shepherds were needed for the yearly roundup. Each year shepherds come together with their sheep dogs and roam the island on horseback to round up all the sheep. They then herd them into Reykjavik, through a narrow gate, and into a corral. In the corral the sheep are divided among all the shepherds, sheared, and then released for another year.

WE NEED SHEPHERDS

Not only do sheep need shepherds, but people need them as well. Archbishop Paul E. Etienne is the shepherd for the Archdiocese of Anchorage. Shepherds are responsible for showing us and nudging us through the narrow gate. They are in charge of ensuring that we have a spiritual house and that we have a faith path to follow.

THREE MUNERA

Bishops are the predecessors of the original disciples. Canon Law (c. 375) tells us that through the Holy Spirit and by divine institution, bishops are successors to the apostles. Archbishop Etienne is a priest of sacred worship, a teacher of doctrine, and a minister of governance. Through his episcopal consecration he is ultimately responsible to ensure the three *munera* (functions) of Christ are carried out: sanctifying, teaching, and governing.

WE HAVE PREDATORS

A shepherd is not out in front of the flock, but in the back nudging and prodding. Every archdiocese needs a bishop to keep its people safe and united together. Unlike Iceland, we have predators. We need to be reminded that when we stray, we are easy prey for wolves. When we are united, we have the protection of our flock. Like a shepherd, the Archbishop carries a crosier (staff) to nudge straying Catholics back to the main flock.

GIVE THANKS

Let us give thanks for the bishops who shepherd us and keep us together as a strong and healthy community; the priests who teach us and lead us in prayer; the Deacons who keep the wolves away; the sisters and brothers of the religious orders who give their lives to building up our Catholic Church.

THANKS FOR OUR SPIRITUAL HOUSE

Above all, thanks to all of you for generously supporting our spiritual house with time, treasure, and talent (467 Words)!

READINGS

Acts 2:14, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. Therefore let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

1 Peter 2:20-25

But what credit is there if you are patient when beaten for doing wrong? But if you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10 1-10.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant

Let us now bring our prayers and petitions to our Heavenly Father.

Lector

For Pope Francis and all Bishops that they may seek and proclaim Jesus Crucified and Risen with renewed vigor and love, we pray to the Lord.

For those called to religious vocations and for those called to minister in the world as lay people, that they respond with generous hearts to the Lord's voice, we pray to the Lord.

For leaders of every nation, that they may overcome their differences and resolve conflicts peacefully, we pray to the Lord.

For all who have died, especially (.....), that they may enjoy the promise of Jesus' resurrection and that those who are grieving for them may be consoled, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and answer them in your great love and mercy, we ask this through Christ our Lord.