

PONDO NG PINOY SUNDAY

Homily Reflection for April 2021

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4th Sunday of Easter

Gospel: John 10: 11-18

Ang Tupa na Tinawag ni Hesus

Reflection on the Gospel

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In the gospel of John 10:11-18, Jesus revealed how good he is like a shepherd and he showed how he cared for his sheep.

As I reflect on the Gospel, I realize that I was like a lost sheep for a long time. I recall looking for the meaning of my life, doubting myself many times, losing hope, feeling devastated, losing friends, and feeling not knowing where my life lay. I did not know who and where to run to. I was hopeless indeed.

As a sheep, I did not know where my Shepherd was. It was like driving a car but not knowing where to go, not knowing the right direction. That was what I felt at that time because I was in the wrong field.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, there is no Homily Guide for the month of April.

When I graduated from college that is where it all started. I started calling and praying to God, wishing to find a job that would mean a lot to others. I started taking steps, and moving forward to make a difference in life. I sought and talked to God.

And God is a good God, he allowed me to know him, to know Jesus as the Son of God. And Jesus is undeniably a Good Shepherd, he knows his sheep, even the sheep who was lost for many years. Para bang ako iyong tupa na nawala sa parang.

When I prayed to God to have a decent job where I could see my purpose in life, God gave it to me. At talagang napakabuti ng Panginoon, hindi niya ako pinabayaan. He sent me to Pondo ng Pinoy dahil alam niya na maraming mabubuting grupo ng mga tupa at pastol ang naroon.



Now I realize that being a lost sheep and then being called to serve means devoting yourself—your talent, passion, and skills, not for yourself but for the others, and by listening, caring, and knowing God, and imitating Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Working at Pondo ng Pinoy made me know more about God and I took time to dig deeper into my faith. Now I realize that being a lost sheep and then being called to serve means devoting yourself—your talent, passion, and skills, not for yourself but for the others, and by listening, caring, and knowing God, and imitating Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

God knows us and He calls us by name. He calls us with a purpose and just like all the staff in Pondo ng Pinoy, we live with the purpose of helping reach out to the poor and neglected in society. With the help of member dioceses and lay coordinators, and our priests and bishops who serve as our shepherds, help is made possible even in this time of pandemic. Indeed, we are all called to serve.

At masasabi ko na sa Pondo ng Pinoy, mas nakilala ko kung ano ang tunay na kalooban ni Hesus bilang isang Mabuting Pastol.

EARTH DAY



A Prayer for Our Earth by Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Earth Day is an annual celebration honoring the achievements of the environmental movement and raising awareness of the importance of long-term ecological sustainability. It started in the United States and is now celebrated globally either on April 22 or the day the vernal equinox occurs.

This year's theme is Restore Our Earth. This and the previous themes and efforts of environmentalists are in line with Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* focusing on care for our common home.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Earth-Day>

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