

The 4th Sunday of Easter is called the “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Let us remember to pray for the good Shepherds we have, and that God will send us more good shepherds as priests and religious. It is also the world day of prayer for vocations and therefore called Vocation Sunday. Keep our seminarian, Caleb Cunningham, in your prayers. He is recovering from his illness and hopes to go back to the seminary this summer. Today is also Mother’s Day.

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers!

There is an old popular movie called *Laura*. Has anyone seen it? It airs on television occasionally. It’s about a young detective who is called to solve the murder of a beautiful young woman named Laura. One night someone knocked on her apartment door, and when she opened it, she was shot and killed. The young detective spent many days in her apartment going through her clothes, books, photo albums, letters, diary, and other personal belongings to find a clue that might lead to solve the mystery of her murder. But—something strange happens—the detective finds himself falling in love with Laura, a dead person.

One day when he was in her apartment going through various things, he hears a key turn in the lock. The door opens, and he could not believe his eyes. There stands Laura! “What are you doing in my apartment?” she asked. The detective explained everything, and it happened that the woman who was murdered was the woman to whom Laura had entrusted the care of her apartment in her absence. Laura had gone on a month-long vocation. The movie ends with Laura and the detective falling in love, getting married, and living happily ever after. Weird story, huh?

The story may be weird, but there are lessons in it for us. We see three stages in the development of the story. In the first stage, the detective studies Laura’s apartment and gets to know her. In the second stage, the study and knowledge leads him to fall in love with her. In the third stage, his love leads to commitment and happiness thereafter.

All of us have learned one question from our CCD classes: “Why did God make you?” To know Him, love Him, and serve Him. The first thing is to know Him. Knowledge helps to love Him, and loving Him helps to serve Him and commit ourselves to Him. God created us and put us in this world to learn about Him.



The detective left no stones unturned to learn everything about Laura. As a result he fell in love with her although he had never seen her in person. That’s what we should be doing in the world. We need to learn about God and everything He created in the world. Those beauties, mysteries, joys, and sorrows will help

us to fall in love with God although we have not seen Him face to face. Knowing Him will help us to see Him in Jesus Christ.

The best way to get to know God is through the Bible. Read your Bible, listen to the readings at Mass and its explanation and attend Bible study. In Jesus we see God face to face. In the gospel Jesus says, “Father and I are one.” Knowing Jesus helps us to recognize Him in the events of our daily life. It helps us to see Him in the poor, in the abandoned, in the sick, in the suffering, in the needy, and so on. Jesus knows each of us by name. In the gospel He says, “My sheep hear my voice. I know them.” So the question is, “Do you know Him?” How do we know Him and where do we hear Him?—in the scriptures and in our shepherds. Every diocese has a bishop and every parish has a pastor. When we listen to them, we listen to Jesus for He said to His disciples, “Whoever listens to you, listens to me.”

Do you listen to your shepherds? Paul and Barnabas preached as we heard in the first reading, and many listened and accepted their teachings. There were others who refused to listen. When you read the scripture and listen to your shepherds you hear the voice of God. We become His sheep only if we hear Him and listen to Him. At the time of Jesus, the shepherds kept the sheep together at night in a pen to protect them. In the morning, the shepherds stood at a distance and called. The sheep recognized the voice of their respective masters and went with them. They do not recognize the voice of strangers. Reading the scriptures and listening to our shepherds will help us to know Him. Knowing Him helps us to love Him. Loving Him prompts us to serve Him, and to commit our life to Him like Paul and Barnabas of our first reading. What do we get when we commit our life to Him? In the gospel He says, “I will give them eternal life, and they will never perish.” Remember: “They lived happily ever after.” Eternal happiness is what we will receive. When we know God, love and serve Him, we too shall live happily in the hereafter. Happy Mother’s Day!