Good Shepherds and Bad

A Jesuit friend of mine was an actual shepherd in his youth. He had spent plenty of time out in the fields, so I asked him what taking care of sheep was like. My motive was about our readings today, all of which have references to shepherds.

He surprised me. He said he hated being a shepherd and would never want to go near it again. Never. Why? Because today there are huge numbers of sheep in a herd and you could never know which was which, much less have names for them. Sheep-dogs, not the shepherd, could keep them more or less together. It was a cold job, uncomfortable and unrewarding, an industry now, with nothing personal about it.

What a surprise.

This seemed like the exact opposite of what we hear in the Bible.

In Jesus' day, however, the herds were much smaller. A shepherd could name each sheep and they knew their master's voice by heart, the way the way the family dog knows your voice. Good shepherds would search and search for one lost sheep. Or if one was turned absurdly on its back, unable to roll over because of its full fleece, the shepherd would take his "crook," and using the big curve on one end, easily maneuver that sheep back to its feet.

And if there was real danger, as for instance if wolves were ready to pounce, the shepherd would take out his "staff," which served as a weapon, and deal with the predators.

Bad shepherds, on the other hand, would actually scatter the sheep. God said this in the First Reading. Sheep feared and trembled and many went missing. Sometimes the uncaring shepherds would lessen their burden by driving the sheep off. People were hired who were not shepherds at all, who simply ran away when a wolf approached (Jn 10:12). God's anger flames up against them in the First Reading.

Sheep and shepherds in the bible are symbols. Jesus is the Good Shepherd in our famous Responsorial Psalm, putting himself out for us who are his sheep.

Now look at the Gospel. There, Jesus was becoming very popular. Many people were coming and going, so that he and his apostles "had no opportunity even to eat." He wisely invited them to come away with him to a quiet place for rest. They went off in a boat to a "deserted place."

But the needy throng traced where they figured the boat was going. They formed a "vast crowd" and ran to the spot! What should Jesus do, start ministering to them again instead of resting? The Gospel says "his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd." And, "he began to teach them many things."

God's words in the First Reading had come true: "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock ... and bring them back to their meadow."

The question for you and me is not whether we should go without food and drink or be workaholics for the sake of others. It is whether our own hearts are ever moved even once with pity for the scattered and fear-filled sheep-folk of our own time. Can we love them and each other, with Jesus' love?

Can we be good shepherds?

John Foley, SJ

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 22, 2018

St. Stephen's Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com 856-7806 33 St. Stephens Road PO Box 250 St. Stephens, WY 82524

Fr. Jim Heiser	Pastor
Fr. Bryce Lungren	
Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ	
Patti McMahon	•

Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's Church

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF......Past. Asst./Director of Religious Education

St. Stephen's Church

Friday: Adoration followed by benediction 3:45pm Saturday: Confessions 2:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Sunday Masses: 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass at 7:15am Wednesday & Friday: Mass at 5:00pm 1st Saturday: Adoration at 8:00am; Mass at 9:00am; Anointing for anyone wishing to be anointed

St. Joseph's Church, Ethete Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM

Confessions 15 minutes before Mass Wednesday & Friday Communion Service at 5:15 PM

> Blessed Sacrament, Ft. Washakie Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 PM Confessions 15 minutes before Mass

Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome!

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The purpose of St. Stephen's Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.

Readings July 23rd through July 29th:

Mon: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42

Tue: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50 Wed: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1-6; Mt 20:20-28

Thur: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-11; Mt 13:10-17 Fri: Jer 3:14-17; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Mt 13:18-23 Sat: Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3-6, 8, 11; Mt 13:24-30

Sun: 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

Sunday Ministry Schedule-St. Stephen's 7/29/18

9:00 Mass

Lector: Penny Robertson

Extraordinary Ministers: Marilu Duncan & Tom Kasper

5:00 Mass

Lector: Volunteer Needed

Extraordinary Ministers: Volunteers needed

Parish Collection

7/15

\$1580.16

"Teach us to give and not count the cost." St. Ignatius de Loyola

Happenings:

7/22: Rosary @ 8:20am

Coffee and donuts

7/27: NO Adoration or Mass

7/28: Music Practice 3pm

7/29: Soup Supper

8/19: Tri-parish picnic:

Hosted by Holy Rosary

St. Stephen's Religious Ed/Baptism

Please plan to attend three classes if you wish your child to be baptized. Next classes will be in September.

If you have questions regarding baptism or religious education classes for the fall, please call the religious education office (856-7806 ext. 16).

Tri-Parish Picnic

Holy Rosary in Lander is hosting this summer's tri-parish picnic on August 19th. Everyone is invited to attend the Sunday 10am Mass and the picnic will be after Mass. Parishioners from St. Stephens are asked to bring a side dish (salad, beans, fruit salad, vegetables etc.); parishioners from St. Joseph's are asked to bring chips (potato chips, dip, pretzels, etc...); and Blessed Sacrament parishioners are asked to bring drinks (bottled water, soda, tea, etc...). Everyone is asked to bring their own chairs. Please plan on attending and joining in the fellowship!

Soup Supper

Soup supper in Eagle Hall after the 5pm Mass next Sunday (8/29). Please bring a soup to share and join in the fellowship!

Vita Nova Coffee

The coffee shop is open Monday through Thursday from 2:30-5pm. Come enjoy a free cup of coffee!

Praised be Jesus Christ.

Praise Him now and always!

Mass Intentions/Communion Service & Schedule this week:

7/21: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)

7/22: 9am St. Stephen's Cathy Galitz
11am St. Joseph's John Heiser
5pm St. Stephen's Jimmy Vanvleet

7/24: 7:15am St. Stephen's

7/25: 5:00pm St. Stephen's John Warren, Sr. S:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service

7/26: 7:15am St. Stephen's Verley Garbrecht

7/27: 5:00pm St. Stephen's NO Mass or communion service today

5:15pm St. Joseph's Communion Service

7/28: 4:30pm Blessed Sacrament

7/29: 9am St. Stephen's Dave Beard

11am St. Joseph's Nee nii teenitooni' (For the people)

5pm St. Stephen's

"Doom to you who legislate evil, who make laws that make victims-laws that make misery for the poor, that rob my destitute people of dignity, exploiting defenseless widows, taking advantage of homeless children." Isaiah 10:1-2

Bishop Steven invites Catholic high school students from the Diocese of Cheyenne who graduate in 2019, 2020, or 2021 and their parents to participate in a pilgrimage to Italy. The pilgrimage will be June 14-24, 2019 and the cost is \$4,895 per person. All details including trip inclusions, criteria for attending, itinerary, and the registration packet are available at http://

www.dioceseofcheyenne.org/youth.html.
Space is very limited, and registrations are
being accepted on a first come first serve basis. For questions contact Maria at
mward@dioceseofcheyenne.org.



Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, pray for us!

Blessed Sacrament & St. Joseph's

Baptism Classes

The last Sunday of each month will be Baptism Sunday at St. Joseph's. Three classes are required. Please call Sister Teresa at 332-4415 to schedule classes.