

May 7, 2017

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2: 14a, 36-41

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 20b-25

Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-10

Homilist: Father Jeff Poirot

I want you to think a moment about a priest you have known over the years who had a positive impact on your life. Whether you have been Catholic all of your life or only recently just about all of us can recall priests who have had an impact on our lives. Sometimes we remember a priest we didn't get along well with but we also remember priests that we liked for one reason or another. Those priests were perhaps there for us when we had a family member, spouse or friend who died. They celebrated our wedding, baptized our first child, gave us our first communion or heard our first confession. They visited us in the hospital or maybe counseled us when we were going through a difficult time in life. They helped us to pray and encouraged us to become better people. As Catholics, priests are a part of our lives and many of us remember more than one priest in our past with fondness.

This Good Shepherd Sunday we not only remember Jesus as the Good Shepherd as mentioned in today's Gospel, we remember all of the priests who have been shepherds to us over the years. But remembering them with fondness is not where we should stop today. It is a moment for us to pray for our priests who are with us today and to pray for those in our community who feel called to the priesthood or religious life. I did not enter into the seminary and become a priest because I lost a game of poker or because I was forced into it. I became a priest because

I wanted to help people the same way that I saw the priests in my parish growing up helping people. I wanted to make a difference in people's lives just like they did and there are some of you out there right now listening to me and are thinking the same thing. And if you are, I want you to consider seriously that God may be calling you to the priesthood or religious life.

Our Church needs good shepherds and there are those of you who would make good priests and good men and women religious. So let us pray today for those who have been shepherds to us in the past and for those in our community who will be shepherds in the future.