**Homily Idea for Good Shepherd Sunday**

World Day of Vocations

1st Reading - Acts 4:8-12 2nd Reading - 1 John 3:1-2 Gospel - John 10: 11-18

Main Point: God calls good men, help them answer.

1. Christ’s mission was to come and save the lost sheep.
   1. In the Gospel, Christ calls himself the Good Shepherd. He knows his sheep and what they need. He is not like hired help who would abandon their sheep when wolves would attack the flock. Rather, he willing lays down his life for his sheep.
2. The Apostles, the first priests, were given that same mission.
   1. This mission of Christ doesn’t end with His Ascension. Rather, Jesus gives this mission to the Apostles, the first priests. The Apostles are sent by Christ to go out and minister to the people of God. We see this in the first reading where Peter not only heals the cripple, but now proclaims Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who witness this miracle.
3. God still calls good men today to lay down their lives for the sheep.
   1. But again, this mission doesn’t end with the death of the last apostle. Rather, throughout the generations, God calls good men to become priests, to shepherd his flock.
   2. This is true even in our day and age. Sometimes a lie enters into our mind that says, “God calls men to be priests, but not in our time, and not in our parish.” This is a lie. God still is calling men to be priests, to lay down their lives for the people of God.
   3. These men he calls aren’t just off in other parishes, but they are also in our parish. We probably have young men in our parishes, in our pews, in our homes, who God is calling to be a priest.
4. Help these young men to answer.
   1. But sometimes this call is hard to hear. We live in a day and age where becoming a priest is unthinkable. But our faith tells us that God is still alive, and still calling young men to be priests.
   2. One of the most important ways that men answer the call to be priests is through encouragement of others. I**n a survey of the recently ordained priests in the US states revealed that 90% of them considered priesthood because someone else asked them**. Let me repeat that.
   3. We can help promote vocations just by asking.
   4. To make it even simpler, we have handouts in your pews that we want you to fill out. On this handout, you will find qualities that make for a good priest. Who is a man in this parish that you think has these qualities. We want you to write their name down. Then hand that name in the basket as we want to encourage these young men to pray about becoming priests.
   5. The most important thing is to not only pray for more vocations, **but to pray for the name of the man that you placed in the basket. Pray that he might know of God’s will in his life.**