

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:7-12, 1 Jn 3:1-2, Jn 10:11-18
Vocation Sunday

Theme: What can I offer to help in spreading the Good News?

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ; today we are being reminded again of our privileged position as children of God. As children of God, Christ has made us heirs of God. But we have to understand that this is not by our own making, but because of God's love for you and me. With this understanding, let us feel free to call God our Father and to always come to Him in prayer with our worries and burdens and with confidence, bearing in mind that God is there for us always as our loving Father.

It is this divine love that made Christ Jesus to sacrifice His divine position in heaven with God the Father to come into this world for our own salvation. In the gospel today, Jesus said, He is the good shepherd who lays down His life that the sheep may have life. Our Lord Jesus accepted all the insults and sufferings because of His love for us. He eventually accepted the shameful death on the cross not for his own gain but to bring us life and salvation.

When we look at the life of the apostles and the early Christians, we always discover that most of them suffered a lot so that the message of the gospel would reach us. Many were killed because of their faith and belief in Christ. It is good to know that eleven out of the twelve Apostles of Christ were martyrs.

Today, have you ever asked yourself what can I sacrifice or offer so that the good news will continue to spread. In our situation or environment today, we are not expected to sacrifice our lives for the Good News, but there are lots we can offer. You can offer your time to help out in various activities in the church. You can be bold to defend your Faith whenever laws and teachings that contradict the Good News are proclaimed. You can also offer donations for the training of seminarians and nuns in various parts of the world to help in the spreading of the Good News.

Beloved children of God, this is our time to make some sacrifices so that the message of the gospel will continue to spread.