



# An Offering of One's Life

## I. A LOOK AT THE THREE READINGS

### FIRST READING (Acts 4:8-12)

#### Question

<sup>8b</sup>Then Peter, filled with the holy Spirit, answered them, "Leaders of the people and elders: <sup>9</sup>If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved,

#### Answer

<sup>10</sup>then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was **in the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; **in his name** this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup>"He is 'the stone rejected by you,\* the builders, which has become the cornerstone.' <sup>12</sup>\* <sup>d</sup>There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other **name** under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."

**THE FOCUS:** Jesus Christ risen from the dead.

### COMMENTARY

- **Setting:** Read Acts 3:1-8 ( the **healing** of the crippled) to understand the background of our reading for today.
- You may read farther to understand the immediate context of our text.
- The question which Peter answers is "By what power or by what name have you done this?" (Acts 4:7)
- Peter's answer: *kerygma* (v.10)  
*Kerygma* = preaching, centers on Christ-event (Christ's crucifixion, death and resurrection), The power of the name of Jesus, Healing, Salvation, Christology  
Who is Jesus? Nazorean, Crucified and resurrected, Stone rejected, now cornerstone (v. 11), Savior of human race (v.12).

*In the arms of the Good Shepherd, we are smiling lambs!*

### REFLECTIONS

As Christians, we are followers of Christ. We too should give power, by our name as Christians, to heal and to spread the good news of salvation.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29)

**THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDER HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE. OR ALLELUIA**

### SECOND READING (1 Jn 3:1-2)

<sup>1</sup>\* "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called **the children of God**. Yet so **we are**. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2b</sup>Beloved, we are **God's children** now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed\* we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

**THE FOCUS:** Being the Children of God

### COMMENTARY

- We become children of God because of the love of the Father (v.1).
- The world does not know the Christians, because it does not know God.
- Acceptance of us comes from the knowledge of God.
- Something is in store for us in the future.

- What we shall be.
- We shall see him.

## REFLECTION

We are children of God. We owe our dignity as children of God through the love of the Father. We Christians have a great future.

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## GOSPEL READING (Jn 10:11-18)

*Contrast between the good shepherd and the bad:*

### *The Good Shepherd*

<sup>11c</sup>I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

### *The bad Shepherd*

<sup>12d</sup>A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

### *The Good Shepherd*

<sup>14</sup>**I am the good shepherd**, and I know mine and mine know me, <sup>15e</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16f</sup>I have other sheep\* that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17g</sup>This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18h</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.\* This command I have received from my Father.”

**THE FOCUS: The traits of a good shepherd**

## COMMENTARY

- The reading proclaims that Jesus is the good shepherd.
- It describes what a good shepherd does: to lay down his life for his sheep, and to go to those who are out of the fold, to lead, has vision (*one flock, one shepherd*)
- To lay down one’s life = to die for, to live for the benefit of the other.
- Jesus lays down his life out of obedience to

the Father.

## REFLECTIONS

The gospel leads us to ask ourselves. What kind of leaders are we? Do we have the characteristics of a good shepherd?

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## II. TYING THE THREE READINGS TOGETHER DEVELOP YOUR HOMILY/SHARING

The leadership of Jesus even if he is gone to heaven is still operating. He operates in the mission of Peter. Peter heals the cripple in the name of Jesus (First Reading)

God exercises his leadership through his fatherhood by declaring believers as his children (Second Reading).

Jesus’ leadership is expressed in his being a good shepherd (Gospel Reading)

## III. OUR CONTEXT

1. In office: benefits obtained or services rendered?
2. Movement for honest leaders in the government.
3. Election-related violence.
4. What are the backgrounds of the new SC judges? (HM)