

## Homily for Fourth Sunday of Easter

As soon as someone picked up the phone, the pesky telemarketer said “Hello.” The voice on the other end of the phone also said “Hello” and the following conversation took place...

“What is your name?”

“My name is Jimmy.”

“How old are you, Jimmy?”

“I’m four years old.”

“Good! Is your mother at home?”

“Yes, but she’s busy.”

“Is your father home?”

“Yes, but he’s busy.”

“I see. Who else is there?”

“The police.”

“The police? May I speak to one of them?”

“They’re busy too.”

“Any other grown ups there?”

“The firemen.”

“May I speak to a fireman?”

“Not now. They’re busy, like the policemen.”

“Jimmy, all those people in your house and I can’t speak to any of them? What are they doing?”

“Looking for me. I guess I’m lost.”

How many times do we have the feeling of “I guess I’m lost.”? How many times do we feel frightened or unsure? How many times do we feel lost because sickness has invaded our lives, a relationship has fallen apart or someone we love has died? How many times do we feel “lost” because we are not sure of the future and we are so tired of worrying about it that we feel someone has dropped us off in the middle of an enormous forest from which we can’t find our way out?

The message of this Sunday in Easter, this “Good Shepherd Sunday, ” is that whenever we get that “I guess I’m lost” feeling, Christ is there looking after us, guiding us and protecting us. Christ, risen from the dead, wants us to know that He is the Good Shepherd who is not frightened by the darkness that can so easily overcome us. Christ is the Good Shepherd who is the gate to the protective love of God. Christ is the Good Shepherd whose tender love for us is always present in our lives and who never tires of leading us home to God.

How appropriate it is that on this Sunday when the Church centers on the Good Shepherd, that we celebrate the gift of our mothers.

For God has graced each of our lives with mothers who have not only nurtured and cared for us, but who are living examples of what it means to be like Christ. And whether we hold them dear in our memory or are honored to spend time with them today, their example touches our lives more than anyone else for the love of our mothers is imprinted on our hearts.

May we honor them today by what we say and what we do. And may we honor them every day by giving to others the same love they first gave to us. Like our mothers, may we become Good Shepherds in our world today.