

**May 08, 2022**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 13:14, 43-52**  
**Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5**  
**Rev 7:9, 14b-17**  
**Jn 10:27-30**

## **I WILL NOT LET YOU GO!**

In 1997, there was a movie that became a big hit. The stars were Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. **Do you remember the title of the movie?** The title of the movie was – **Titanic. How many of you have seen it?**

If you remember in the movie, there was a beautiful scene towards the end. As the ship was on the verge of its final plunge into the cold water of the Atlantic Ocean, Jack and Rose were clinging on the edge of the ship for dear life. Jack turned to Rose and said: **"Don't let go. Whatever happens, don't let go."** The words of Jack to Rose revealed a beautiful message that, no matter how difficult their situation was, he will 'hold' her until the end.

In today's gospel proclaimed the Lord Jesus reveals to us the same sentiment. He wants to 'hold' us until the end. Listen again to what he said: **"No one can take them out of my hand."** These words convey his desire for us not to be disconnected to him. He does not want us to go off track. He intends to protect us through every storm and every difficulty of life. He desires to bring us to a better place. And he clearly imparts this to us when he presented himself in **John 10:11** as the **Good Shepherd**. He says: **"I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."**

If the Lord Jesus presented himself as the Good Shepherd, we, his followers, therefore, are his sheep. And, as his sheep, we have one thing in common to do in relation to him. **What we should be doing in common?** Listen again to what he said: **"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."** As his followers, one thing that should bind us together is our willingness to listen to him attentively. Listening to him is very important. He knows us inside out already. However, we cannot say the same thing about him. Therefore, if we want to know him better, listening to him matters. When we listen to him attentively and with regularity, we will surely know him better and serve him deeper.

**Where can we listen to the Lord Jesus regularly?** One of the places we can listen to him with regularity is here in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist! We are blessed to have Mass/Holy Eucharist here every day at 7AM and it is free! **Will you walk an extra mile and meet the Lord Jesus in the celebration aside from Sunday?**

This Sunday is called '**Good Shepherd Sunday**' and the Universal Church designated it as '**World Day of Prayer for Vocations.**' In the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we are asked to pray, not only for those who already responded to the call to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and religious life, but also for young men and women to consider listening to the call of the Lord Jesus to work in his vineyard through such vocations.

If I may ask you, my dear parishioners, **how many of you are praying for more vocations every day? Do you promote such vocations to the young members of your family? Or are you the one discouraging them not to?** If you don't know what to say in praying for vocations, we have a beautiful prayer for vocations printed in our parish weekly bulletin. Please pray it every day.

On Sunday, August 16, 1987, **Northwest Airlines flight 225** crashed just after taking off from the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. One hundred fifty-five (155) people were killed. One survived with injuries: a 4-year-old from Tempe, Arizona, named Cecelia. News accounts say that when rescuers found Cecelia, they did not believe she had been on the plane. Investigators first assumed Cecelia had been a passenger in one of the cars on the highway onto which the airliner crashed. But when the passenger register for the flight was checked, there was Cecelia's name. The report says: "**Cecelia survived because, as the plane was falling, Cecelia's mother, Paula Chican, unbuckled her own seat belt, got down on her knees in front of her daughter, wrapped her arms and body around Cecelia, and then would not let her go.**"

I am sharing the story with you to highlight the sacrificial love of a mother to her child. What the mother did in trying to save her child is clearly a metaphor of God's love for each one of us. God's love will not allow anyone to take us out of from his hand.

Today is **Mother's Day**. As we honor all the mothers here present (and those who are watching us via live streaming), I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for responding to the call to be mothers. As Catholic mothers, may you always imitate the example of Mother Mary who listened attentively to the voice of God and followed it faithfully.

As a sign of gratitude to you, my dear mothers, allow me to pray for you today in a special way. Please, my dear mothers, stand up as I offer you, my prayers.

### **Mother's Day Blessing**

(<http://www.cathedralchapel.org/>)

**Heavenly Father, please bless all those You have entrusted with motherhood.**

**Inspire them to follow the example of Mary, the Mother of Our Lord,**

**and follow her in her fidelity, humility, and selfless love.  
May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this life,  
and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in Heaven. Amen.**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO YOU ALL!**

Three calls that we have to remember today – 1) the call to listen to the voice of the Lord Jesus;  
2) the call to pray for more vocations; 3) the call to pray for our mothers.

God bless our Easter journey!