

BASILICA BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of Our Lady of Penafrancia Basilica and National Shrine, Naga City, 4400 Philippines

April 29, 2012

Good Shepherd Sunday

4th Sunday of Easter



Good Shepherd Sunday

Fr. Luisito A. Occiano

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**. Each year on this Sunday we reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, devotedly taking care of his flock. Jesus, as a shepherd, leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects His own flock.

Some people say that the idea of the Good Shepherd is considered a passé.

But consider these: Recently in the news, there is the rise of Filipino caregivers working abroad. Filipinos are said to be innately good natured and has a heart for people especially the elderly. They give high respect elders whom they consider the instrument who provided them a better life. This is why a caregiver agency is all over the Philippines and many countries are hiring

mostly Filipino caregivers.

A taxi driver surrendered a bag of valuables that was left in his cab by three male German tourists. He has become the country's latest example of why it really may be getting more fun in the Philippines, where visitors often don't expect to get their stuff back.

For trying to help his son from being severely beaten by a neighbor, a 43-year-old employee was



stabbed to death in Quezon City on Thursday evening, police said.

A dedicated working mother who takes good care of her children; a tireless street sweeper who braves the rain and

the heat of the sun; a barangay tanod who without compensation protects the people from crime; or a night shift medical technologist who works selflessly because no one wants to work late. These are only some images of genuine

stewardship and shepherding.

Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, government officials and politicians are called to become shepherds. We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time and talents for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties as shepherds, becoming role models for their children by leading exemplary lives

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, continues to share his role to all of us. It may be very difficult and painful but with simple acts of loving and serving our brothers and sisters, we lead them to the green pasture of peace, joy and happiness.

Now who says that the values of the Good Shepherd is no longer relevant? In fact, being one like HIM is still and will always be the BEST thing to do!

Daily Readings of the Week

April 29 Sun: Acts 4:8-12/

1 Jn 3:1-2/

Jn 10:11-18

April 30 Mon: Acts 11:1-18/

Jn 10:1-10

May 1 Tues: Acts 11:19-26/

Jn 10:22-30 or

Gn 1:26-2:3

Mt 13:54-58

May 2 Wed: Acts 12:24-13:5a/

Jn 12:44-50

May 3 Thurs: 1 Cor 15:1-8/

Jn 14:6-14

May 4 Fri: Acts 13:26-33/

Jn 14:1-6

May 5 Sat: Acts 13:44-52/

Jn 14:7-14

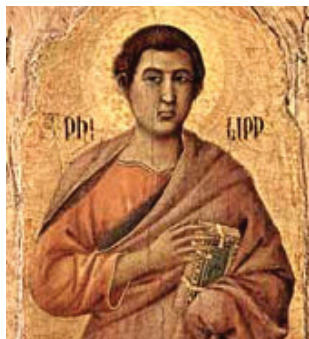


Sunday Gospel

John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again."

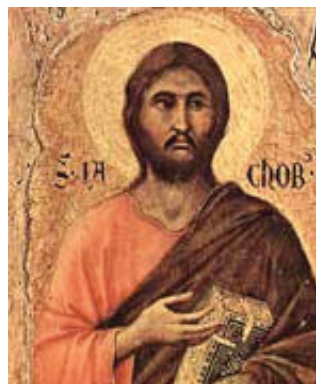
"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"



St. Philip was one of Christ's first disciples, called soon after his Master's baptism in the Jordan. The fourth Gospel gives the following detail: "The next day Jesus was about to leave for Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him: Follow Me. Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to

him: We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets wrote, Jesus the Son of Joseph of Nazareth. And Nathanael said to him: Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him: Come and see" (John 1:43ff).

St. James the Less, a brother of the Apostle Jude, was of Cana of Galilee. He is the author of one of the Catholic Epistles in the New Testament. He was favored by an appearance of the Risen Christ (I Cor. 15:7). After the dispersion of the Apostles he was made Bishop of Jerusalem. He was visited by St. Paul (Gal. 1:19). He spoke after Peter at the meeting of the Apostles (Acts 15:13). When he refused to deny the Divin-



ity of Christ, the Jews cast him down from the terrace of the temple and clubbed him to death. The Breviary contains a very moving description of his death. "When he was ninety-six years old and had governed the Church for thirty years in a most holy manner, the Jews sought to stone him, then took him to the pinnacle of the temple and cast him off headlong.

As he lay there half dead, with legs broken by the fall, he lifted his hands toward heaven and prayed to God for the salvation of his enemies, saying: Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do! While the apostle was still praying, a fuller struck his head a mortal blow." His relics now rest next to those of St. Philip in the church of the Holy Apostles in Rome, and their names are mentioned in the first list in the Canon of the Mass.

Sts. Philip and James are the patrons of the parish in Lag-onoy, Camarines Sur. The parish, following the old calendar, celebrates the patronal fiesta on May 1. In the Vatican II revised calendar, however, the feast of the apostles Philip and James is set on May 3.

Meditation on Work

(Pope Pius XII decided in 1955 to add the optional feast day of Saint Joseph the Worker on May 1)

God's fundamental and original intention with regard to man, whom he created in his image and after his likeness, was not withdrawn or canceled out even when man, having broken the original covenant with God, heard the words: "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread." These words refer to the sometimes heavy toil that from then onward has accompanied human work; but they do not alter the fact that work is the means whereby man achieves that "dominion" which is proper to him over the visible world, by "subjecting" the earth.

Toil is something that is universally known, for it is universally experienced. It is familiar to those doing physical work under sometimes exceptionally laborious conditions. It is familiar not only to agricultural workers, who spend long days working the land, which sometimes "bears thorns and thistles," but also to those who work in mines and quarries,

to steelworkers at their blast furnaces, to those who work in builders' yards and in construction work, often in danger of injury or death. It is familiar to doctors and nurses, who spend days and nights at their patients' bedside. It is familiar to all workers and, since work is a universal calling, it is familiar to everyone.

And yet in spite of all this toil—perhaps, in a sense, because of it—work is a good thing for man. Even though it bears the mark of a "bonum arduum," in the terminology of St. Thomas, this does not take away the fact that, as such, it is a good thing for man. It is not only good in the sense that it is useful or something to enjoy



St. Joseph the Worker - May 1

it is also good as being something worthy, that is to say, something that corresponds to man's dignity, that expresses this dignity and increases it. If one wishes to define more clearly the ethical meaning of work, it is this truth that one must particularly keep in mind. Work is a good thing for man—a good thing for his humanity—because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed in a sense becomes "more a human being."

Without this consideration it is impossible to understand the meaning of the virtue of industriousness, and more particularly it is impossible to understand why industriousness should be a vir-

tue: For virtue, as a moral habit, is something whereby man becomes good as man. This fact in no way alters our justifiable anxiety that in work, whereby matter gains in nobility, man himself should not experience a lowering of his own dignity. Again, it is well known that it is possible to use work in various ways against man, that it is possible to punish man with the system of forced labor in concentration camps, that work can be made into a means for oppressing man, and that in various ways it is possible to exploit human labor, that is to say, the worker. All this pleads in favor of the moral obligation to link industriousness as a virtue with the social order of work, which will enable man to become in work "more a human being" and not be degraded by it not only because of the wearing out of his physical strength (which, at least up to a certain point, is inevitable), but especially through damage to the dignity and subjectivity that are proper to him.

Excerpted from the encyclical letter of John Paul II on Human Work, Laborem Exercens, on the 14th day of September 1981.

Prayer in Social Justice

All pastoral work, including promoting social justice and providing for the poor, must be nourished by prayer, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Without contemplating and internalizing God's word daily, one risks being suffocated by too heavy a workload and one's heart risks hardening to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, he said.

"Charity and justice are not just social action but are spiritual action realized in the light of the Holy Spirit," he said during the general audience in St. Peter's Square April 25. It was attended by more than 20,000 pilgrims from all over the world, including members of the U.S. Catholic Health Association and the Ascension Health Alliance.

Continuing a series of talks on Christian prayer, the pope highlighted Chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles, which recounts how the early Christian community decided to call forth "seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom" to be dedicated to charitable action so the apostles could continue to dedicate themselves to prayer and proclaiming the word of God.



POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pope's New Image

Initially the media portrayed Pope Benedict XVI as God's Rottweiler, the stern protector of the faith. Seven years later he is now seen as a gentle and humble intellectual who has learned to move among the people, and a paternal figure who has made himself loved.

He is also seen as a reformer who has never lost sight of his objective: to proclaim Christ to the world and bring everyone closer to the Church. A Pope who has faced up to tremendous problems such as the sexual abuses.

This is the image that emerges from some interviews that ZENIT held with correspondents and Vatican experts who follow Benedict XVI's pontificate, even if some of them hold that he has a difficulty with communication that still persists.

According to Giovanna Chirri, Vatican expert for the Italian Agency ANSA, "This Pope is a theologian who, although he became a reformer, never lost sight of his objective: to proclaim Christ to the world."



Archdiocesan News

Social Services Pre-Congress



In view of the June 15 Social Services Congress, a meeting was held last April 26-27 at the Basilica Hall. Initiated by the Casafi, the group of 20 priests and lay revisited the APCC Decrees.

Feast of the Good Shepherd

On April 29, the fourth Sunday of Easter, the church will again celebrate the feast of Jesus the Good Shepherd. The Archbishop's palace, with its chapel named after the Good Shepherd and being the residence of the shepherd of the Archdiocese, marks this as its feast day.

The actual celebration will be on April 30, Monday, to allow the priests concelebrate with Msgr. Rodel M. Cajot, Vicar General of Caceres who will preside the Holy Eucharist.

The celebration of the feast of Good Shepherd in Caceres focuses on the theme: "Shepherding in the Journey of Faith" The novenary masses started last April 21 with the newly ordained priests of Caceres presiding over the mass and sharing their reflection on the theme.

Wedding Photographers Seminar



Last April 23, 85 photographers and videographers were given accreditation by the Commission on Liturgy and CCom to cover at the wedding in churches of central vicariate. A special session will be given to those who were not around on May 19 at 8am at the Penafrancia Shrine



BASILICA NEWS

Sacristans Summer Camp



The Basilica sent 10 sacristans to the Summer Camp of Altar Boys held last April 23-25 at the CBSUA Calabanga. The gathering was sponsored by the Commission on Liturgy.

New Penafrancia Association

A new association of devotees to INA based in Dublin, Ireland was formally established and accredited by the Penafrancia Basilica last April 22, with the blessing of the Image of INA.

The officers are: Romy Bonaobra - President, Elannie Toralde - Vice President; Dan Rosales - Treasurer; Mabel Cortez - Secretary; Lyle Toralde - PRO.

"We are aware of our responsibilities to live the life that INA would like us to live - humble and obedient children but steadfast and unwavering members of the association defending the faith" said Romy Bonaobra, in his letter to Msgr. Cajot.

iRun and iBike for a Cause



Around 700 runners and bikers participated in the iRun and iBike for INA 2 last April 21. The activity was intended to raise funds for the Prayer Garden in honor of Pope John Paul II.

**1st Canvassing
REYNA ELENA 2012
Basilica of Our Lady of Peñafrancia**

1.	Danielle Marie C. Boncodin	P 3,180.00
2.	Jozavielle Riza A. Cedo	
3.	Michelle Cetra	
4.	Czarmaine Pia A. Chavez	
5.	Anna Dominique P. Delloro	1,100.00
6.	Daryl Dawn B. Garfin	4,778.00
7.	Charlotte Camille A. Hugo	
8.	Lily Alyanna N. Marasigan	
9.	Rosemarie A. Paraiso	
10.	Rachel Y. Preconcillo	23,700.00
11.	Racel Rose C. Romero	26,490.00
12.	April P. Roxas	2,000.00
13.	Florianne Mikee G. Vibares	
Total		P 61,248.00

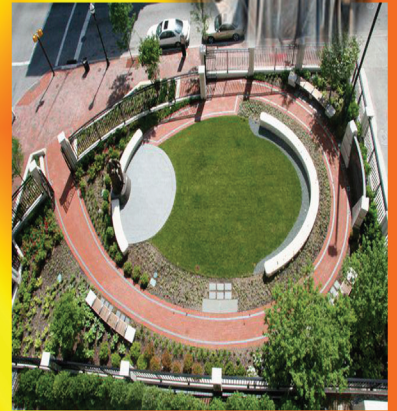
Proceeds: Museo de Nstra de Sra. Penafrancia

Last Canvassing: May 12, 2012

**I Support this Project!
Blessed John Paul II Prayer Garden**



Original Site (Back of Basilica)



Our Dream JP2 Prayer Garden

Sponsored by: Penafrancia Young Professionals
Penafrancia Basilica Minore and National Shrine
Naga City

If you want to support:
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Email: info@penafrancia.net

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