

# LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2024

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

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.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again

I have received this command from my Father.'



## REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. A vocation is a call from God. Most people are called to the married life. Some are called to a single life. Some people are called to religious life, and choose to take vows and live in a religious community. Some are called to the priesthood, and are ordained for service in the Church.

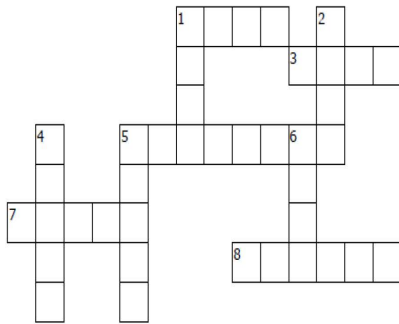
God loves each one of us, and has a dream and a plan for us to find happiness and fulfillment. Each of us is offered the opportunity to discern where and how our unique gifts and talents meet the world's hungers and needs

There are many pathways that people can follow in response to God's invitation and call to service. How are you called to serve?

## TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How do people discover their vocation? How do people hear the voice of God in their lives?
- How can we help people to discover where and how God might be calling them? What ideas would you have about this?

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. The period from birth to death
3. A wild animal that look like a dog and hunts in a pack
5. One who takes care of the sheep
7. What we use to speak
8. To hear or pay attention to something

## DOWN

1. A strong feeling of affection
2. The opposite of bad
4. A group of sheep herded together
5. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
6. Goes faster than walking

SHEPHERD	GOOD	LIFE	SHEEP	WOLF
FLOCK	RUNS	VOICE	LISTEN	LOVE



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## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18

## Word Search Puzzle

P E P F E L D W S R L G F T T  
 T B F L O C K P K M I U W E J  
 Q V C Q K N O W F L F R I A Y  
 L N B F O O H P J O E Q U T I  
 Z G N L Q R I D Q V U C W N S  
 A A I G O O D S T E T S A L S  
 O S T M S J C N H S S D M L T  
 B F G S R C Y Y Z E V R S I K  
 D W E O H C A R E S E K H S A  
 A O Q J B E O T M V C P C T K  
 P L D V E F P Q T A R E T E T  
 E F O O D H E H T E P K H N V  
 N B G I S C U T E Q R A Y B S  
 K G E C G B A O T R L S C V V  
 U M R E Q O A T H D D D K X W

LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW

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# SYNOD ON SYNODALITY CONTINUING TO EXPLORE THE SYNTHESIS REPORT LOOKING AT CHAPTER 9- WOMEN IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Let's continue walking together by taking a look at the XVI Synod Assembly. Today we are going through the "Convergences" part of chapter 9-- Women in the Life and Mission of the Church" Recognizing the unity and complementarity of men and women, the Synodal Assembly responds to Pope Francis's exhortation to be a people of the Beatitudes. Baptized into the same dignity, women and men are called to co-responsibility as co-protagonists in the life and mission of the Church.

## PART II – ALL DISCIPLES, ALL MISSIONARIES

### 9. Women in the Life and Mission of the Church



We are created, **male and female**, in the **image and likeness of God**. From the beginning, creation manifests **unity and difference**, bestowing on women and men a **shared nature, calling, and destiny**, and two distinct experiences of being human. Sacred Scripture testifies to the **complementarity** and **reciprocity** of women and men, and to the covenant between them that lies at the heart of **God's design** for creation.



## Baptismal Dignity

**In Christ**, women and men are clothed with the **same baptismal dignity** (Gal 3:28) and receive equally the **variety of gifts** of the Spirit. We are called together into a **communion** of loving, **noncompetitive relationships** in Christ, and to a **co-responsibility** to be expressed at every level of the **Church's life**.



**Jesus** considered women his **interlocutors**: he spoke with them about the Kingdom of God; he **welcomed them** as **disciples**, as for example Mary of Bethany. These women, who experienced His power of **healing, liberation and recognition, travelled with Him** on the road from Galilee to Jerusalem (Lk 8,1-3).



**Women desire** to share their spiritual experience of journeying towards **holiness** in the various stages of life: as **young women**, as **mothers**, their friendships and relationships, in family life **all ages**, in **working life**, and in **consecrated life**. Women cry out for **justice** in societies still marked by sexual violence, economic inequality and the tendency to treat them as objects. **Pastoral accompaniment** and **vigorous advocacy** for women should go hand in hand.



Where **dignity** and **justice** are undermined in relationships between men and women in the Church, we **weaken the credibility** of our proclamation to the world. Our **synodal path** shows the need for **relational renewal** and **structural changes**. In this way we can better welcome the **participation** and contribution of all as **co-responsible disciples** in the work of **mission**.

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

(From Vocations Canada-vocations.ca)



## What is discernment?

Discernment is a process by which we are helped to reach a decision in the light of faith and in the context of our personal reality and the realities of the world in which we live. Discernment involves trying to identify what is of God, what is for our full happiness and for others and distinguishing or separating that from what is not of God or from what is simply driven by my ego, societal expectations, family or peer pressure.

## Some Helpful Hints

- Keep in mind that discernment isn't easy and it takes time – be patient with yourself and God!
- You may find it helpful to keep a journal so that you can record your thoughts and reflections.
- Come to your process of discernment with an open heart – be prepared to be surprised by God!
- Remember that choosing one way means letting go of another way – no matter how good is.
- It's always hard to choose between two or more "goods".

## Some Discernment Steps

1. **Place yourself in the presence of our loving God.** Make some quiet time and special space for prayer and try not to fill the time with lots of words in your prayer. Listen to your heart and to God in the movements of the Holy Spirit in you. Reflect on your vocation. You may find it helpful to pray in the quietness of your room, in Church in front of the Blessed Sacrament or in the quietness of nature. Ask God to speak to your heart.
2. **Find a spiritual director or wise and trusted soul-friend** – someone you can be really open and honest with – who can help you deepen your relationship with God and know yourself better.
3. **Pray for freedom to understand and choose what is in harmony with God's designs for you.**
4. You may find it helpful to take a piece of paper and **write down what you think are alternatives for you and then look at the appeal and the advantages or disadvantages of each one** for you and for others. Consider your reasons for choosing a particular way. Which reasons best lead to your loving service of God and others? In relation to each alternative ask yourself again how you best need to be loved and how you can best love.
5. **Realistically consider your gifts and limitations, your deep desires and needs** and how they might fit well with possible life choices.
6. **Listen to words of confirmation or affirmation from others** in your process.
7. **Where are you feeling peace?** What most draws you close to God?
8. Gently and with patience come to a decision and in prayer and action search out further confirmation of your choice. Offer the fullness of your choice and life to God.