

April 26, 2015 4th Sunday of Easter (B)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

Last Wednesday, April 22 was "Earth Day". The Catholic Church is encouraging us to get more involved in saving our beautiful planet from environmental catastrophe. Catastrophe? That's an extreme word. Not if you read Elizabeth Kolbert's new book. "The Sixth Extinction: an Unnatural History". She just won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize. Earth has had five previous periods of mass extinction-none of them caused by humans. We didn't exist yet. We came to exist on our planet about 200,000 years ago- this is called the Anthropocene Age. It took us about 180,000 years for us to move into settled communities. The word "civilization" is used to describe this historical moment. In the last 200 years, thanks to our brains, ingenuity, inventions (e.g. railroad, steam engines, cars, ect.) we really took off. Take a look at paintings of photographs of Yonkers in the late 19th century on the walls of our City Hall. Factories with smokestacks spewing out smoke were a source of great pride. Yonkers was a truly industrialized city. Take a look at photographs of our church thirty years ago. Our once beautiful red and brown stone was black. The blackness was caused by the 100 years of the soot of our industrial factories. We now realize that this soot is also in our lungs. It is also in the atmosphere warming up the earth. We are heading towards extinction. We had our time on earth and we destroyed it. Some life will survive but probably not us.

Ok Father, you have scared us. Move on to another topic. That is how we usually deal with this sort of news. We have enough things to worry about. Don't add to our anxieties. Well, I would like to move on. After all I won't be here when the worst happens. But don't we owe it to future generations (our children and certainly our grandchildren) to get involved? In future bulletins and maybe in homilies I will try to find ways for us to contribute to this mission to save the earth. If you have some suggestions, let me know.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, April 19, 2015 was \$3,713.00

The Second Collection this Sunday April 26, 2015 will be for our Mother's Day Mass Remembrance. The Second Collection next Sunday May 3, 2015 will be in Support of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.



Food Collection: Next Sunday is our monthly food collection. Please remember the needy in our community this week in your shopping. Thank you for your generosity



Easter Flowers:

Please remember in your prayers those names on our Easter Flower Plaque in the back of the Church.

4th Sunday of Easter:

Every year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter we hear a Gospel story in which Jesus proclaims that he is the Good Shepherd, so this Sunday has come to be called Good Shepherd Sunday. For this reason today is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As we continue with our worship today, let us pray in gratitude for all the good shepherds in our lives, and pray as well for all those who are discerning their vocation.

In the first reading, Acts 4:8-12: Peter speaks boldly before the Jerusalem high council. Jesus is the way to salvation.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 118:22: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

In the second reading, 1 John 3:1-2: John tells us that God the Father loves us. His loves makes us his children.

In the Gospel, John 10:11-18: Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd. He knows his sheep and willingly lays down his life for them.

Today's Focus: A Foolish Shepherd? What good would a dead shepherd be to his flock? Jesus' point however, is that the flock is the first concern of the shepherd.

Question of the Week: Who have been my "good shepherds"? What examples can I think of in my own life of those who have laid down their lives for me? What motivates people to make sacrifices for others?

Praying with the Word:



Good Shepherd, fill our hearts with gratitude for the love you have shown us in laying down your life for us. Help us to follow you by our willingness to lay down our lives for others.

The Lord never tires of forgiving us. It is we who get tired of asking for pardon.



Year of Consecrated Life Event: Join the Sisters of Charity of New York in praying the Rosary for Peace, Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 1PM, at the Grotto, Mount Saint Vincent, near the front gate. Light refreshments will follow.