

# FAMILY NIGHT

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Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2010



## **Sunday Readings:**

*Acts 13:14,43-52*  
*Paul and Barnabas preach to the Gentiles.*

*Revelation 7:9,14b-17*  
*The Lamb on the throne will wipe every tear away.*

*John 10:27-30*  
*Jesus' flock knows His voice.*

## The Good Shepherd Speaks to Us

### WHAT'S THE POINT?

What a wonderful comfort to know that we can hear Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We have become a part of his flock through baptism into his Church. Through the Church we have many ways of hearing Jesus: through our priests, through the reading of Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, through the encouragement of our brothers and sisters, and during prayer. The closer we draw to Jesus, the better we will be able to respond to His voice and follow Him, follow his teaching, and in turn teach others the way.

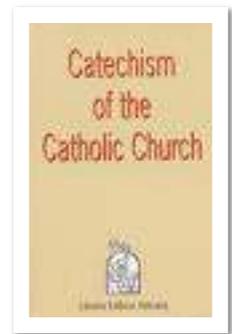
Opening Prayer: Our Father or Act of Charity

## Family Activity

1. Follow the Leader – choose someone to be the shepherd and have the others follow like a flock of sheep. Crawling and bleating adds to the fun! Or, draw a picture of yourself and family dressed like a sheep following Jesus.
2. The Catechism tells us that Jesus is the gateway to the Church or sheepfold. Read the words of Jesus from John 10:1-9 and compare this Scripture to Catechism No.754.

## Catechism Connection

No. 754 “The Church is, accordingly, a *sheepfold*, the sole and necessary gateway to which is Christ.”



Who gave to Jesus His followers?

## Saintly Examples



St. Barnabas

St. Barnabas was a Jew who heard the message of Jesus' Resurrection and became a follower. After selling his property and giving the proceeds to the Apostles, he joined the others of the Early Church in Jerusalem. When Saul came to Jerusalem after his conversion, St. Barnabas was first to embrace Saul as a brother in Christ. He and Saul, now Paul, were commissioned by the other Apostles to go on a missionary journey to spread the gospel. He suffered persecution for the sake of Christ. It is not known for sure, but it is thought that he was stoned to death in the year 61. As a leader of the Church, it is clear that St. Barnabas followed the voice of the Good Shepherd as he went throughout Asia Minor spreading the gospel.

## *Let's Talk About It*

### Discussion Questions

1. How do we hear the voice of Jesus?
2. What are some ways we know we are part of Jesus' flock? (Baptism, Eucharist, doing works of mercy, etc.)
3. Name a time when you knew Jesus was speaking to you. A wonderful time to hear the voice of Jesus is as you kneel and pray after receiving the Holy Eucharist.
4. What are some reasons Jesus wants to speak to us? (Main reason is because He loves us so much.)

## *Family Commitment*

(Fill in your commitment here)



## *Snack*

Large pretzel sticks to remind us of a shepherd's rod. Or, bake bread sticks from store bought dough. Bend one end of dough over like a shepherd's crook before baking.

## *Closing Prayer*

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death unto life. Amen.



## *Quiz Answer*

The Father. (John 10:29)