



## “Tending Sheep”

*Jesus began his message with friendship, not only because it is powerful, but also because it is hopeful. It is the key, the only key, that can unlock the door to a worthwhile future in love. Jesus saw the truth of that 20 centuries ago. Instead of organizing institutions, he started a movement based on friendship, on love. That is the only solution to the problems of the human heart. People can live together under almost any conditions if they are friends, if they are in love.*

- Sr. Jayne Kelly

Each of us has been called to witness to Christ's call to Life. Each of us has been sent to feed one other - to nourish and

be nourished through community. We are each challenged to proclaim to the world that our God is a God who takes life with absolute seriousness, a God who enters fully into suffering and death and does not allow it the final victory. We do this just by living our daily lives as best we can: by raising our children, by teaching, listening, comforting and encouraging others, guiding and defending life.

Today's Gospel is a wonderful lesson for each of us, struggling with our own very personal efforts to love Jesus and to be faithful to Him. We are so often slow to understand, eager to deny, strong on words and weak on action, afraid to pay the price of discipleship, but always hanging in, and always knowing that Jesus will walk with us, forgive us, heal us, and wait patiently for us to mature in our faith and our love - waiting for us

to reach the point when we can say with Peter: "Lord, you know that I love You."

And Jesus will smile back at us, and say, "Follow me." And we will follow. And the Risen Lord will be very much with us, to help us understand, to supply answers to our deepest questions and fears, and to reveal Himself again to us in the Breaking of the Bread.



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