

(Food for thought)

Gospel: John 10:1-10

“A Different Perspective”



Turbulent times call us to a deeper, more mature faith. The Crucified Christ teaches us that we carry within us - individually and as a community - the wounds of our world and of our Church ... and the Risen Christ teaches us that these are also the wounds of Christ which have the potential to heal from the hurt that we have endured. The Cross conditions us to self-denial, to contradiction, and to the possibility of total failure. The Empty Tomb assures us that the victory and the power of the Risen Lord are ours. It is through that power that we defy the world and its standards.

The image of Christ as the Good Shepherd speaks to everyone. The earliest statue of Christ

(4th century) found in the Roman catacombs, depicts him as a youthful shepherd with a lamb across his shoulders. The relationship between the young shepherd and sheep gives us some idea of our relationship with Jesus. He describes that relationship to be as strong and intimate as the one he has with his Father. Nothing can break that bond. When the sheep goes astray our Shepherd comes out looking for us. He does not give up on us, even though it will require his life. “I will lay down my life for the sheep.”

The Gospel today reminds us that Jesus is the gate for the sheep, and that we can only be the people He calls us to be by living our lives as He lived His. Jesus modelled a life-style to which He was inviting all of his followers to share: one of concern and compassion, of service and dedication, one of relentless and abounding love ... one that brings all people together in His own healing power.

