

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8TH 2022

Every year on the fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to pray for vocations. In the midst of our Easter celebrations, the focus is on our vocation as Christians to witness to the Good News of the Gospel. The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ guides us in our daily life. The Gospel passage from St. John proclaims:

‘Jesus said: “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.” (John 10:27)

Jesus assures us of a constant communication with Him, prodding, accompanying us, inspiring us and leading us to a deeper understanding of that vocation to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Personally we discipline ourselves to hear His voice, as sheep listen to the shepherd; comforted and assured by the voice. Deep within us this voice stirs us to action, to thanksgiving and fidelity. As John Cardinal Newman wrote: our hearts are restless until they rest in you. This intimacy guides and directs us through the gift of the Spirit.

Guided by prayer, personal and communal, we are formed to be receptive to our call as Christians. Through the Word, the Sacraments and the community, the world is affected concretely by who we are. In the various Easter appearances, the early Church was encouraged and emboldened to be witness to their risen friend.

In a special way we pray for the particular vocation of Holy Orders and consecrated life. Pray for all who share these particular vocations with their sisters and brothers. This week beginning Monday, the priests and seminarians of the diocese are on retreat at Villa Madonna. Please pray for us.

Blessings of peace. Christ is Risen, Christ is truly Risen! Alleluia!
Fr. Don

Continue to pray for peace in war-torn areas of our planet.