



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I HAVE MADE YOU A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BE AN INSTRUMENT OF SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.” —Acts 13:47b

April 21, 2013

### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Good Shepherd not only knows us but has given his life for us. We belong to the Shepherd. His life is the source of our life. One part of this relationship is firm—God’s part. The Father has entrusted us to the Son, and the Son will not let go of our hand.

The other part of this relationship depends on us, of course. In today’s Gospel, Jesus assumes our open-hearted good will. *“My sheep hear my voice . . . And they follow me.”* This hearing and following is a daily undertaking that implies responsibility. Take Paul and Barnabas, for example. They moved ever closer to the reality that salvation was also meant for those members of the flock who did not yet know God’s saving power. The Gentiles were the sheep known by the Shepherd. Paul could finally see that now was the acceptable time for them to know the Shepherd. Now the circle could be completed. Finally, those who were known and loved by the God of Jesus could know and follow the God of Jesus. There will never be a last chapter to this story of salvation.

### PRAY FOR RESTORATION OF PEACE

The tragic end to the Boston Marathon April 15 reminds us all that evil exists and that life is fragile. The deaths and injuries of people gathered for the celebration on Patriots Day in Boston calls on all of us to pray for the souls of those killed, the healing of those injured and the restoration of peace for all of us unsettled by the bombings at a world renowned sporting event.

Our special prayers are with the Archdiocese of Boston and the people there who are working in the aftermath of this crisis to address those wounded in so many ways by these events.

The growing culture of violence in our world and even in our country calls for both wise security measures by government officials and an examination by all of us to see what we can personally do to enhance peace and respect for one another in our world.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York,  
President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
April 15.

### GIVE SOMEONE A SURPRISE!

J.S. Paluch, our bulletin production company is now providing the opportunity for parishioners, groups and organizations to *Celebrate Life’s BIG Moments* by purchasing space on the back of our bulletin. Ad space can be purchased to appear one week or multiple weeks for low costs. You might consider special occasions such as graduation announcements, best wishes, anniversaries, birthdays, first communions, confirmations, in honor of, in memory of...*the list goes on and on*. There is more information available in the parish office or better yet...you may go to [www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com) or call 1.800.621.5197 to celebrate your BIG moment in the bulletin!

### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant—that we always observe the behaviors of those who interact with children and communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children’s activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what’s happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them—at every opportunity.

### REFLECTIONS

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**First Reading:** Acts 14:21-27 **Second Reading:** Revelation 21:1-5a

**Gospel:** John 13:31-33a, 34-35

*Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice and they follow me. I give them eternal life.” We hear Jesus’ voice in reading scriptures, taking time for reflection, in prayer and in silence, and in the events of our days. Do I really listen to Jesus?*