

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]**

**Mystagogical Reflection on Texts of the *Roman Missal***

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 2014

**Prayer after Communion:**

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,  
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures  
the sheep you have redeemed  
by the Precious Blood of your Son.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Reflection:**

This Sunday is also called Good Shepherd Sunday as both its readings and prayers have that theme. Because of this focus, it is also called World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Thus this Sunday has a rich mixture of great images.

The Gospel of the Good Shepherd was formerly assigned to the Third Sunday of Easter but, after the Second Vatican Council, it was given to the Fourth Sunday of Easter and new orations were composed.

This new Prayer after Communion states the obvious. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (*Pastor bone* in Latin) who is asked to look upon his flock. The rich mystagogical reality is we are that flock. We are the sheep who have been redeemed. We are the ones, who receive Communion, and, here the richer image, who are redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ. Secondly, we pray that he would be pleased to settle us in the eternal pastures of heaven. This image echoes the eschatological reality that when we celebrate the Eucharist, we already participate in the heavenly life of those who have gone on before us and worship around the throne of the Lamb. He is also the active shepherd who leads us here on earth.

**Prayer:**

O God, may the Good Shepherd who willingly laid down his life for his sheep and who is now risen, lift us up, fed by this heavenly food, to be better sheep and better disciples of the one Shepherd.

Submitted by:  
Rev. Leon Strieder  
St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, Texas  
Diocese of Austin

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