
Scripture Reflection

When we consider the Lord as the Good Shepherd, we see how He unites us as His flock, bringing us together under His protection. We know that He cares for each one of us more deeply than we can understand. In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus illustrated how, when any in His flock lose their way, the entire flock must seek them out and surround them with God's grace and mercy.

In **John 21:1-19**, Jesus shows us that, if we entrust our efforts to evangelize the world to Him, they will always be fruitful, even when we lack understanding. As the disciples fished, unable to catch anything after hours and hours at sea despite their many years of experience, Jesus appeared and told them to simply fish from the other side of the boat. Following our Lord's direction, the catch was so large that it almost dragged their boat underwater. Jesus, teaching the apostles to be fishers of men, then gave Peter a special responsibility. Because Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus gave him the opportunity to express his love three times. Then, he gave Peter the instruction, "Feed my sheep."

"Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God."

If we love Jesus, then we must in turn share His love with others. When we share God's grace and mercy with others in our community, we are blessed to experience it more deeply ourselves.

We, like Peter, are sinners, and we often underestimate our power as fishers of men. But when we serve the Lord and have faith, we can fill a community with His unending love. In **Acts 5:27-32, 40b-31**, as Peter stood before the Sanhedrin, the high priest told him, "You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching."

The *Annual Catholic Appeal* presents a special opportunity to serve the Lord with gladness, using our faith and our generosity to fill the entire community with His compassion and helping our brothers and sisters in need to overcome the obstacles that confront them. Let us serve the Lord with gladness, uniting us as one family, **Brothers and Sisters All**.

Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit aca.archstl.org to learn more about how the *Appeal* helps our brothers and sisters in need overcome the obstacles they face. You can also Text-to-Give by texting "ACA" to 243725.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

We continue to ask parishioners to support the 2022 *Annual Catholic Appeal*. In today's Gospel, Jesus shows the apostles who they are to become: fishers of men. The *Appeal* helps us to continue seeking out all of our brothers and sisters so that we can bring the light of the Gospel into their lives. If you have not yet made a gift the *Annual Catholic Appeal* this year, please do so today. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass, make a gift online at aca.archstl.org or use Text-to-Give by texting "ACA" to 243725.