

July 21, 2024



Daily Reflections

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

TRUSTING THE SHEPHERD

By Alicia M. Rodriguez

Today's Gospel Acclamation

*The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow.*

JOHN 10:27 (Translation from The Jerusalem Bible)

Reflection

My uncle lives in a big city in Mexico -- he is a businessman and takes us to all the best touristy places when we go to visit him. However, our favorite place to visit is his ranch that is far removed from the hustle and bustle of the big city (and internet availability is little to none).

Last year I visited during Holy Week, and we spent most of it on his ranch preparing for Easter. All my cousins and their families were there too, and I spent most of my time baking in the stone oven outside.

On one occasion I remember that the children were awfully quiet, which automatically made us wonder what shenanigans they were up to. Well, we didn't have to wait long to figure it out. We heard a loud "clank" and then saw all of the sheep running amuck in the open field. The men immediately ran to gather up the sheep and the rest of us ran to gather up the children. It was my first time witnessing how they herd the sheep -- or, in this case, attempted to ... since the men were my big-city cousins who didn't really know what they were doing.

A few minutes passed before my uncle and his faithful dog came to observe the chaos. He took in the sight, laughed, and then very calmly gave his dog the signal to corral the animals. Immediately the sheep huddled together and when my uncle gave the command for them to go inside, they did so without hesitation and without any additional chaos.

The sheep recognized my uncle and the dog, and they followed without hesitation in a calm manner. It blew my mind that it was that easy for them to stop running around and do as they were told without fighting back. It made me realize that they acknowledge the care and protection that my uncle gives them and in return, they have complete trust in him.

In a similar way, Jesus has time after time again showed me how much He loves me and protects me from danger. He has never raised His voice with me and has always guided me back to Him with calmness and tenderness. Shouldn't I then also trust in the Lord without hesitation, like the sheep trust my uncle?

Some things are easier said than done. Often we listen to our own desires rather than what the Lord is telling us to do, and often we end up hurting ourselves as a result. Things would have been better had we just listened to the Lord in the first place.

Let us try to listen to the Lord's instructions for us and allow Him to guide us to a fulfilling life with Him.



Attentive Sheep - Durango, Mexico
Photo by Alicia M. Rodriguez

For Pondering

- When was the last time you actively listened to the instructions the Lord has given you?
 - Has there ever been a time where you followed your own desires, rather than the Lord's? How did you feel? Was it fulfilling?
 - Take some time now to reflect on what is currently going on in your life. Ask the Lord to give you direction that will lead you to follow Him, and let Him guide and protect you as together you navigate your life's journey.
-

For Prayer

*Lead me, Lord, to where your pastures are,
Grant me peace to walk without worry by Your side.
Instruct me on how to walk with you,
Protect me from the wolves of life.
Amen.*

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)