

May 3, 2009  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

One of my favorite places to pray is in the back of St. Joseph Church, at the shrine of the Good Shepherd. The statue of Jesus, carrying the strayed lamb on His shoulders, has a face that is filled with compassion and kindness. It reminds me that Jesus has that same compassion and love for every one of us, and expects us to have the same compassion for one another. It always reminds me that the people I minister to are sacred, because of the way Jesus feels about them.

Sometimes that is easy to remember, especially on days like today when our young ones receive their first holy communion, and they look so solemn and innocent. It is easy to see that they are precious and beloved in Jesus' eyes. It is harder to remember that the woman in her SUV on her cell phone who almost hit you in the crosswalk is also precious in Jesus' eyes. So is the panhandler in front of Walgreens...and the drug addict asleep under the el tracks...and the upstairs neighbor who plays his stereo so loud...and that son-in-law who was never good enough for your daughter...on and on. All are beloved in the eyes of the Good Shepherd Who directs His compassionate gaze toward all.

If we could only remember the times He came to rescue us when we had strayed, we might be a little less hard on one another. Every person you will see today has inestimable worth in the eyes of the Good Shepherd. Pray that we can begin to see the world through His eyes.

God bless you.  
Fr. Pat