

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 23, 2010**

Sometimes a short Gospel passage calls for a short reflection. I remember one of my favorite elementary school teachers, Sister Mary Cyril, teaching us about the Good Shepherd. First she told us that sheep recognized the voice of their shepherd, so that when a shepherd called his flock from a grazing land where many flocks gathered, they would follow him. Then she told us that Jesus said He knew His sheep, and when they heard His voice they followed Him. The Good Shepherd protected His sheep from harm and led them to heaven according to Sister Mary Cyril.

But as with all the good news of the gospel as reported by this aged sister, it came with a caution: “The Good Shepherd cannot know you if He never sees you, and you never spend anytime with Him. And if you never get to know His voice, well any old Tom, Dick or Harry can lead you wherever they want to...and even Old Nick himself can trick you and lead you straight to the jaws of hell.”

Sister may not have been a sophisticated theologian, but she knew how to get a point across to a middle-school student. To this day I cannot help but notice when I fail to make time for daily prayer in my life it is not long before the rest of it begins to fall apart...It is harder to stray when you make time to keep in the Lord's presence.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat