

Homily 4th Sunday in Easter - Year C (12.5.19)

Please be seated. Now I want to talk to the children first, if you look at me, children.

That gospel was very much about you. Because Jesus is saying, He's the good shepherd, it's Good Shepherd Sunday today, and that you, every one of you, can never be lost in God's eyes. That no matter what you do when you grow up, if you make big mistakes, if you fail at exams, if you do something wrong, God is there to shepherd you, if you'll only take the grace to be strong.

So, if Jesus is the Good Shepherd, children, who are the sheep?
You are.

And He says,

"I know them, and they follow me."

But there's one thing he does say that's special after today, when you receive the body of Christ today, you'll become united with Him and the Father, and the Father and Jesus are one, so you become one with God. And He says this,

"The sheep that belong to me, listen to my voice."

So after today you're not the same, you need to start listening and paying attention to Jesus' teaching and put it into practice.

Now, I want to address the parents, would they stand please?

You see, if Jesus is the Good Shepherd, Saint Augustine says that bishops who are meant to be shepherds and teachers actually are not solely alone, he says, that parents of children are bishops of the house, because they're shepherds, teachers and guardians of their small flock. And indeed the church teaches that every family is potentially a domestic church.

So you have these young children here, and it was your love that brought them initially to be baptized and your love now that is deepening them in the next stage of receiving the body of Christ. But you have to encourage them after today to listen to his voice, to become true shepherds and guardians of your children. So we pray for you today that you fulfil your vocation.