

Homily for 4th Sunday in Easter
Acts: 4:8-12; 1Jn: 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

This homily was crafted with the help Carl E. Olson...Thank you sir...Father Vic Gournas

-My question today...Why do people sometimes get upset when the Catholic Church says she was founded by Jesus... And Jesus is the only way to be saved...They think this is arrogance and there are many ways to God (For those who still believe in God)...So let us look at our readings today for an answer.

-Peter, to justify the healing of a man who was crippled from birth, and done in the name of Jesus...Proclaims: 'There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

-The uniqueness of Jesus Christ was always central to the preaching of Peter, Paul, and the other apostles. It is the name of Jesus...In Hebrew, "God saves"...That salvation is offered to all men.

-The image of God as shepherd is a classic one in the Bible. In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, we hear that God would one day come and shepherd Israel himself. Jesus will guard, guide, protect, and watch over His flock (Church)...just as He did with Israel.

-Jesus, speaking of his sheep, said "there will be one flock, one shepherd".

-Jesus the Good Shepherd is unique because of the depth of his sacrifice for His Church (us) and the depth of his relationship with the Father.

-"The Father loves me, because I lay down my life for my sheep." Jesus shows from the cross...His obedience, in love, for the Father...And His sacrificial love for you and me.

-In the Church, in Baptism) we are reborn as children of God...We share in His divine nature". The Father's greatest gift is "a participation in His very life...Wow, we participate in the life of God.

-Peter, in addressing the Jewish authorities, stood not as a single figure, but as the head of the Church...St. John did not write his epistle to just anyone, but to the "beloved", that is, the Church (us).

-Jesus is the only way to the Father...And He has come to invite you and me into His Life with the Holy Spirit and Father...And Jesus has given us one church to know how to find the way to Eternal Life, and true Love among the many choices of religions in this world.

-The Catholic Church is the Church Jesus founded because it has the four marks of the true Church...She is: One, Holy, Catholic (universal), and Apostolic (We are connected

to Peter and the apostles)...Knowing I am a part of the One True Church gives me great comfort that I'm heading in the right direction...I hope you will feel the same.

-Stay close to this church in her wounds, partaking of her Sacraments) and in our obedience to Jesus and His commandments... In doing so, Jesus will heal us and upon making us whole...Carry us with love, to our Father, to live forever in Love, in Heaven...This should give us great Hope and Joy. AMEN!