

The members of the Oblate family connect with each other through this prayer on the third Sunday every month.

ORAIISON

21st April 2024

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: John 10,11-18

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

I know mine and mine know me. On the one hand, the fact that someone knows me, and even God himself, is a wonderful thing. He knows my name, he knows what is on my mind, what I am struggling with, what is good for me and what is difficult for me. Knowing someone is the first step towards understanding him. And that's the great thing: God understands me through and through. Even if I and the people around me do not always see the big picture - He does. But: he really knows me through and through. He also knows about my fears, my inabilities, he also knows about the things I am deeply ashamed of. I realise this again and again when I prepare for confession. That first moment, not only in front of another person, but also in front of God, to say: "I'm just a sinner", is incredibly difficult for me. And after I always hear: "Your sins are forgiven" - because God knows me and because he loves me. Moreover, because he cannot help but love those he knows. Wow.



And what's more: I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. Perhaps I too can say: Lord, somehow I know you, even if only a little bit! But it's till only a "very little bit". God is greater. God is wider and more comprehensive than my small thinking, even if I sometimes want him to fit in my thoughts and opinions. He knows much more, and he has many more "sheep" than I can imagine. That is reassuring. Not everything depends on me. On the contrary. HE has already done everything. For me. For you. For the sheep that we may not know. For all of creation. How good that he knows us all.

Eugene de Mazenod, Pastoral Letter, 1844

When we see grace acting powerfully among you and spreading both light in people's minds and charity in their hearts, when the infinite mercy of the Lord is manifested with brilliance in the midst of our flock, and when the lost sheep is brought back to the fold and restored to our love, then our rejoicing is great, for our soul joins in the happy emotions that make heaven rejoice for sinners who are converted.

John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep[g] that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

