

**Sunday May 8, 2022**  
**Carly Sanderson**



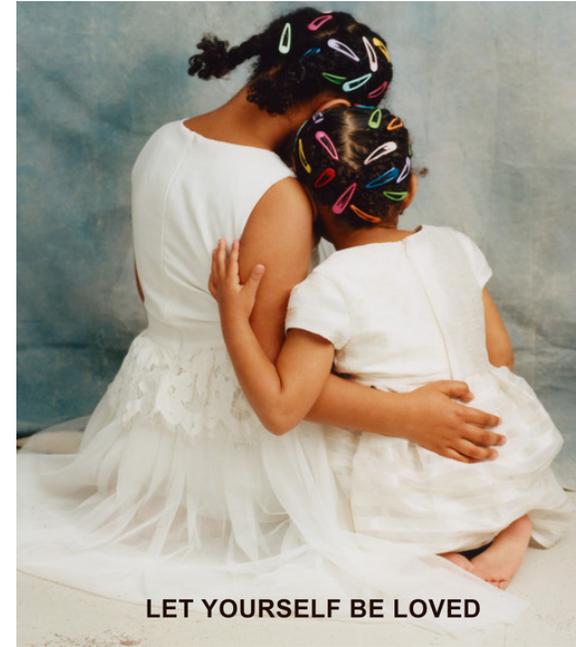
**St. Pius V**  
**COMMUNITY EASTER REFLECTIONS**

**May 8-14, 2022**

I'm laughing as I write this because I had no idea that I had picked to write a reflection for this Sunday, which is also Mother's Day. God knew that I needed a chance to reflect on motherhood (with three children four and under, there isn't a lot of space in our house for personal reflection). There are both spiritual and physical mothers, and all versions of motherhood are messy because we are humans. I find great solace knowing that, while I'm flawed, God provided my children with His flawless Mother, Mary. In the areas that I fall short, Mary will certainly provide for them.

The Gospel today is like a balm to my weary soul. It is another great example of God providing for us. He's offering us protection from the challenges of this world. *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."* (John 10:28) I can distinctly see God and His goodness during the spring when everything is blooming and beautiful.

The Lord calls to us in so many ways— some small (like a word that might whisper to you in today's Gospel) and some large (like the awe-inspiring, out-of-nowhere rainstorm). God wants us. He wants all of us, all of the time. What could be more comforting than that? We just need to open our hearts to Him.



**Monday, May 9, 2022**  
**Maureen Fox**

Nowadays we urbanites might not be able to relate very well to the image of a shepherd and his flock, but in the times and places of Jesus,

everyone understood. He no doubt used this metaphor to illustrate his relationship with his faithful ones because it was a concept familiar to his audience and could illustrate his point easily. Once we understand the role of the shepherd as a protector, leader, and nurturer of his sheep, the parable makes more sense to us. The shepherd was completely devoted to the flock and was its lifeline. He had to be on constant watch for people and animals seeking to harm the defenseless sheep. Within the fold, a gated enclosure, the sheep were kept safe and were watched over until the shepherd lead them out for grazing.

Likening himself to a good shepherd Jesus explains that it is his voice that we must listen to. Others may attempt to lead us astray of the shepherd, but following them will result in our destruction. He came for our benefit and freely gave his life for us, just as the good shepherd does for his flock. Although the hired hand runs from the wolf and allows the sheep to be destroyed, our shepherd is steadfast in his protection. As I see it the fold is The Church, and ultimately Heaven. We can only gain entrance through the gatekeeper, Jesus. It is his voice that we know and must heed, guiding us on the road to eternal salvation. Even those outside the fold will be lead by Jesus into the flock, where we will all be as one. In the last two verses of this reading, Jesus predicted his death, which, by the command of his Heavenly Father, he freely gave up for our sakes.

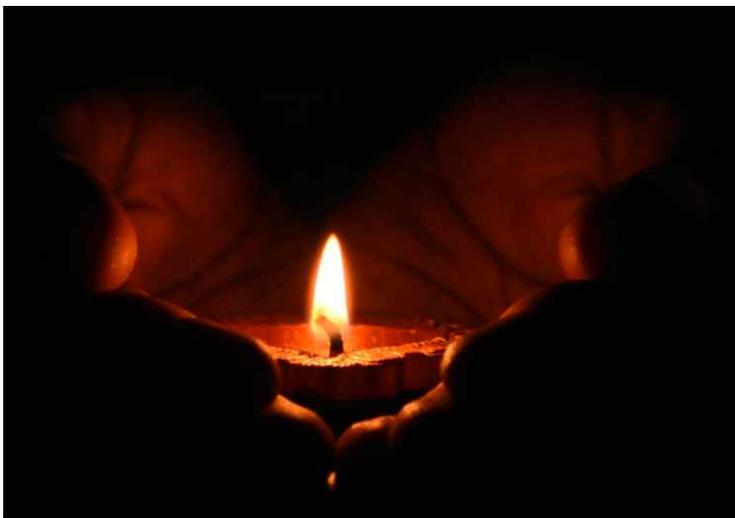
We are truly blessed to have been chosen to be the sheep in the fold of our good and selfless shepherd, Jesus!



**St. Damien**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**  
**Patrick McCrudden**

Recently I attended a conference where one of the speakers was sharing a bit of her personal story. She was a person of strong Christian faith and was working in an HIV clinic. She realized that she harbored bias against some of the patients because of the way they had contracted the disease, e.g., through IV drug. Another person working at the clinic, who happened to be agnostic, told her “No one wants to know about the God you serve unless they know you love them first.” Those words were a turning point for her, and they struck me powerfully as well. In today’s Gospel we read of Jesus being questioned: “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me.” This day we recognize Saint Damien of Molokai, whose works testify to his love of Christ in suffering humanity. Damien served those suffering from leprosy on the island of Molokai. Damien served both the spiritual needs of the patients there but also their material needs: obtaining support for a new hospital, school and orphanage. He died after contracting the disease himself. Let us each reflect on Saint Damien’s powerful witness to the love of God and pray that his model will strengthen us in the love we have for others.





**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**  
**Sr. Janet Crane, SSND**

“I came into the world as the light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness.” Jn 12: 44-55

Light can be most appreciated when we have known darkness. How often have we been out in the country away from light and light pollution and seen a far distant light so clearly! Another phenomenon occurs. Our hearing becomes sharpened to hear even the faintest rustle of leaves or quietest whisper. We may even spring into action. Something erratic happens in the dark and we feel insecure.

With light, we can be changed or so it seems. The light becomes an image and revelation of Jesus especially during the Easter season. In today’s Gospel, Jesus himself uses the light as the mission of his coming into the world. He gives us his thoughts about our being in darkness and what can be to divine remedy, namely belief in Him. His light comes from the source of God. So no matter how dark is the darkness, we can see the light appear and come toward us in our belief. Our belief sharpens our listening for the words of Jesus in our lives and empowers us to act on them. Jesus confirms to us that His ray is no ordinary light and His sayings are no ordinary words. He is the Light and the Word who comes from the Father. We are to live in the Light and act on the Word.

**Thursday, May 12 2022**  
**Michael Ohlman**

Being a musician today’s psalm sings to me.  
Sing to the Lord a new song  
Announce his salvation  
Bless his name  
Tell of his wondrous deeds.

“I sing therefore I am” says the Lord. Must have been Des Cartes actual inspiration from the entity we call “God.” Melody and harmony are a different language than spoken and written words. Even adding lyrics to music seems to diminish the spirit, feeling, expression that music holds.

I’m sure humans composed music being inspired by the many creatures God conceived before us, the birds of the air, the fishes in the sea. It’s quite incredible that so many people in all cultures are still writing new songs to the Lord. Is that not announcing his salvation day after day?

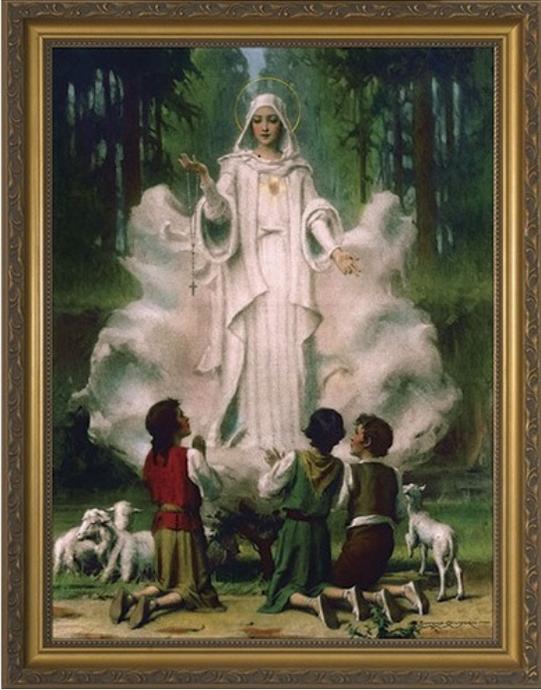
Music and song get more attention publicly than speakers and writers. Never ending applause, fame and a great income. All that attention is really what we’re after: “Watch this, Mom. See what I can do Dad.”

We all want and need to be noticed, affirmed— in one word LOVED. God is Love. Being created in her image and likeness we are God for each other. We are love for each other. Yes there is some entity out there we name God. And God is only real and tangible here as we live our lives—loving each other.

***“You are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus”.***



**Our Lady of Fatima**  
**Friday, May 13, 2022**  
**Tom Brinkman**



Paul addresses those gathered in Antioch as “children of the family of Abraham”. He tells them that the promise made to “our fathers” has been fulfilled for us “their children” in the raising of Jesus.

Jesus, who accepts us as his sisters and brothers, tells us that we are welcome in our Father’s home with him. We have nothing to worry about because there is

abundance, many dwelling places and room for all. We are God’s children and belong at home with Him. Jesus is going there before us to make our own individual place ready for us – a place where all are welcome, where we all belong. How wonderful that Jesus not only invites us, but personally comes to take us there, “so that where I AM, you also may be”.

Jesus reminds us to have faith in his Father and in him. But we are like Thomas and need help to believe. We want to know the way. So, Jesus comes to us in our doubts as well and shows us clearly. “I AM the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” He loves us perfectly and wants to be sure we do not get lost on the way home.

Today is also the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. God chooses children to be shown Mary’s wonder and love for God’s people. Mary points them and all of God’s children to her Son and the Way to the Father.

**Saturday, May 14 2022**  
**Christian Marquez**

Easter, Latin/Greek Pascha, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion. In today’s Gospel reading (John 15:9-17), Jesus Christ says to his disciples as follows: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love.” Such words contain a powerful message; therefore, we should always try to reflect the love of Jesus Christ for us in our words and deeds toward other people. When we think of the wounds



on the body of our Lord, we must also see those same wounds in the body, soul, and spirit of our own brothers and sisters in need. Let us forget not that we’ll be judged according to how well we put into action the teachings of the Lord.

May you all experience a meaningful Easter season!