

**Deacon Tony's May 8, 2022 Homily
for
the Fourth Sunday in Eastertime**

JOYOUS ADHERENCE

Who could help but be joyful when they reflect on the words of Jesus in today's Gospel?

“MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE; I KNOW THEM AND THEY FOLLOW ME,”

“I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH.”

“NO ONE CAN SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND.”

We are the joyous children of God who have washed our robes in the blood of the Lamb and kept them white. We will not hunger or thirst or be homeless because we have chosen to live in the shelter of the Most High God.

Today we honor our Mothers and all the gifts that they were given to be the real shepherds of God's flock. Mothers have been called to the mission of caring for the souls of their children; an awesome task that has eternal rewards.

I have boiled it down to one lifelong way of life:

When we show our children the JOY of living a faith filled Catholic life and our commitment to living it out daily, rain or shine, they will see the love that results.

It is an undeniable witness to the love that we share from God. The early converts were known to say: **SEE HOW THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER!**

This way of life drew many converts to Christ and there is the same need today. There are grandmothers today who will approach me to ask for me to baptize their grandchildren. I tell them that we cannot baptize without the parents full

co operation and participation in their **spiritual development**. And of course to be in a **spiritual partnership** with the child's fathers is a living witness to all around them.

So, we are very thankful to all mothers, for passing on their faith in Jesus, in order to give their children an opportunity pass their own faith on to their children.