

Monday 4th (B & C) of Easter

Gospel text (Jn 10,1-10): Jesus said: «Truly, I say to you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. But the shepherd of the sheep enters by the gate. The keeper opens the gate to him and the sheep hear his voice; he calls each of his sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them and the sheep follow him for they know his voice (...).».

John 10: Jesus is the "door" of the fold

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, surprisingly, the shepherd discourse does not begin with «I am the Good Shepherd», but with the image of the "door". Jesus provides the criterion for the shepherds of his flock: someone is a true shepherd when he enters through Jesus. Thus, Jesus Christ is still the Shepherd: the flock "belongs" to Him alone.

In John 21, the Lord asks three times to Simon-Peter: «Feed my lambs/sheep». He is being appointed for the same task of shepherd that belongs to Jesus. In order to perform it, he has to enter through the "door": «Simon, son of John, do you love me?». Christ is asking him about the "love" that makes him one with Jesus. So Peter comes to the sheep "through Jesus". Then the sheep hear the voice of Jesus and is Himself who leads them.

—Finally, Jesus says to Peter: «Follow me» (21,19). This implies the acceptance of the Cross, the willingness to give his own life. Precisely, in this way the words «I am the door» become tangible.