Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter

Gospel text (*Jn* 10:1-10): Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize 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 live. Precisely, in this way the words «I am the door» become tangible.