

*St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*  
*The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

**John 10: 11-18**

Jesus said: “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 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 my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.

**Questions to Ponder:**

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus will watch over his own, protecting them and keeping them united as one flock attentive to his own voice. But in this scripture he also speaks of others that he welcomes into the flock.

1. How does it make you feel to think of God as caring for you as the Good Shepherd?
2. Who are the other sheep Jesus must bring into the flock? Do you feel that you are a part of Jesus’ flock or are you part of the group still waiting to be brought in? Explain
3. Who are the thieves and robbers in today’s world?

End with the “**Glory Be**” “**Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**”