



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
From the **GOSPEL OF ST. JONH 10:11-18**  
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY  
-ASIA-

## ***GOOD SHEPHERD IN PANDEMIC TIME***

The continuous surge case of Covid19 in the Philippines these past weeks heightened the tireless and selfless commitment of our front liners; a good shepherd, who is basically risking one's life every day to attend the sick and be an instrument of God's healing power to those afflicted of the virus. And because of the uncontrollable situation and the inability to work as one (the government, medical professionals, the Church) the health condition of the country worsen and the day to day life of many becomes more challenging. Jobless Filipinos are growing in numbers, small and big companies are closing and families unable to provide for their basic needs are rising but despite this disturbing situation; goodness, concern for each other and shepherding are mounting. These past weeks various individuals, groups, families and neighborhood, in different places organized themselves to have a "community pantry." An initiative inspired by simple and ordinary people to open a food store for community members in need. So, they can visit the pantry and can get what they need, for free. And for those who have; are encouraged to share whatever they can in accord to their possibility. This is truly a ray of hope in the midst of darkness, and a concrete image of shepherding; a shepherd, who recognizes the needs of the others and listens to their cry, a shepherd who embraces all and does not exclude anyone. It is inspiring and heartwarming to see different initiatives to alleviate the suffering of the others; a concrete and visible image of a good shepherd. Someone who is not thinking of himself and his own survival but can risk and sacrifice what he has, to give hope and life to others. Blessed Francisco Palau said: "I live and will live for the Church, I live and I will die for her," that is bold enough, courageous enough to give one's life for the other.

Let us allow Jesus to move our hearts and ask him to learn from him a **good shepherd**, to defend the life of the sheep, who understands his own and who gives his very life for his sheep.

And let ask for God's grace and of his mercy, so, we may not remain as hired man; who when sees a wolf coming leaves the sheep and runs away and has no concern for the sheep (cf. Jn.10,12).