

truth and life; but, as he says, he is going, and we may not as yet follow him. Give ear, then, and learn what is the primary quality of the true Spouse of Christ.

Jesus was one day, previous to his Passion, in the country of Cæsarea Philippi, his Apostles standing around him, and he began questioning them about what they thought of him. One of them, Simon the son of John or Jonas, and brother to Andrew, answered in the name of all, and said: *Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God!* Jesus expressed his pleasure at receiving Simon's testimony, which was not the result of any human knowledge, but the expression of a divine revelation there and then granted to him; and he immediately told this Apostle that from that time forward he was to be, not Simon, but *Peter* (which means a rock). Jesus had been spoken of by the prophets under the name of a *Rock*, or *Stone* [Is. 28:16]; by thus solemnly conferring upon his disciple a title so characteristically that of the Messias, Jesus would give us to understand that Simon was to have something in common with Himself which the other Apostles were not to have. After saying to him: *Thou art Peter* (that is, *thou art the rock*), he added: *And upon this rock I will build my Church.* Let us weigh the force of

these words of the Son of God. He has a project in view: he intends to *build a Church*. It is not now that he will build it, but at some future period; but one thing we already know as a certainty—that this Church will be built on Peter.

That future is now become the present. We are come to the last days of Jesus' visible presence here below. The time is come for him to make good his promise, and found the kingdom of God—that Church which he was to build upon the earth.... He suddenly addresses himself to Peter: *Simon, son of John, lovest thou me?* Peter, with his usual eagerness, answers his Master's question: *Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee.* Jesus resumes, with a tone of authority: *Feed my lambs... Feed my lambs... Feed my sheep!*

Here, then, we have Peter made shepherd by him who says of himself: *I am the good Shepherd.* Firstly, our Lord gives his Apostle, twice over, the care of his lambs; this does not make him the complete shepherd: but when he bids him feed his *sheep* too, the whole flock is subjected to his authority. Now, therefore, let the Church show herself, let her take her stand, let her spread herself through the length and breadth of the nations; Simon, the son of John, is proclaimed its visible head.

Commentary from *The Liturgical Year* by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B. (1805 – 1875).



## Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

### ADDENDUM: Commemoration of Good Shepherd Sunday

*The Second  
Sunday after Easter*

#### Second Collect

DEUS, qui in Filii tui humilitate jacéntem mundum erexisti, fidélibus tuis perpétuam concéde létitiam; ut, quos perpétuæ mortis eripuisti casibus, gáudiis fáciás pérfrui sempitérnis. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

BENEDICTIÓNEM nobis, Dómine, cónferat salutárem sacra semper oblátio: ut, quod agit mystério, virtúte perficiat. Per Dóminum ...

PRÆSTA nobis, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut vivificatiónis tuæ grátiam consequéntes, in tuo semper múnere gloriémur. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

#### Second Postcommunion

GRANT unto us, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who receive the grace of new life, may ever glory in Thy gift. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

*I know Mine, and Mine know Me.*

**B**UT HOW is this society, Holy Church, to subsist? How is it to persevere through the long ages of time, even to the last day? Who is to give it unity and adhesion of its parts? What is to be the visible link between its members — the

palpable sign of its being the true Spouse of Christ, in the event of other societies rising up and disputing her titles? If Jesus Himself could have remained with us we should have had nothing to fear, for where he is, there also are

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