

Gianna Gobbi: A Joyful Servant

Listening to the Voice of the Good Shepherd

Call to Prayer

Once again, we gather as a community of catechists, to thank God for and to lift up the work of Gianna Gobbi, joyful servant, faithful catechist and observant Montessorian. She reminds us: *“Prayer is, first of all, listening to God. It is the particular key which opens up the mystery of God’s relationship with God’s creature; it is a key which belongs to God but which God gives to all God’s creatures regardless of denomination, class, or race; it is a key which is offered in every moment, place, and circumstance. . . . Prayer is initiation to the mystery of God and is, itself, mystery. It is a means of knowing God: it is a means of God’s self-revelation to us, and it is an instrument of our personal response to God. The Good Shepherd ‘calls his own sheep by name.’ This means that, as catechists, we cannot presume to teach prayer. Rather, our task is that of creating the conditions for silence and reverence which will help the child to focus on and listen to God.”*



Let us now do what we do in the Atrium, light a candle, and open our ears and hearts to the Word of God.

The Word of God

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 10:3b-5, 10b-11, 14-16)
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. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers. I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

Gianna said *“Prayer is, first of all, listening to God. It is the particular key which opens up the mystery of God’s relationship with God’s creature; it is a key which belongs to God but which God gives to all God’s creatures. Prayer is initiation to the mystery of God and is, itself, mystery. It is a means of knowing God: it is a means of God’s self-revelation to us, and it is an instrument of our personal response to God. The Good Shepherd ‘calls his own sheep by name.’*

Let us be still and silent and hear the Voice of our Good Shepherd calling us by name.

Closing Prayer

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people:
Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who
calls us each by name, and follow where he leads;
who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.