OUR WORLD NOW NEEDS GOOD SHEPHERDS WHO FOLLOW
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS CHRIST

Since we started ruling or leading ourselves as we like, we have opened doors for maltreatment, insecurity, chaos, violence, corruption, inequality, discrimination, and killings to bedevil our societies. Our societies will be free of all these crimes and evils if we all allow the Gospel message to influence everything we do in this world. Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, we are encouraged to reflect on Jesus Christ as our Good Shepherd and learn from Him. A good shepherd and a hireling have different attitudes. A good shepherd, in caring for the sheep entrusted to him, can lay down his life for his sheep. A hireling is not known for always protecting the sheep he is looking after at any cost because He is only interested in his wage or salary. Jesus Christ is our ideal good shepherd because He laid down His earthly life for our salvation (John 10:11). Some people have sacrificed a lot for the good of others. We need to ask ourselves what we have done for the good of others. A GOOD SHEPHERD CARES FOR OTHERS. There are people in our societies today who are not interested in the good of others but only concerned about their selfish interests. These kinds of people have the attitudes of a hireling. Before elections, people decide on who to vote for based on different reasons. Sometimes, some people vote for those who promise to fulfill their interests if elected instead of voting for those who prioritize the common good and strive to lead with the fear of God. OUR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS SHOW WHETHER WE HAVE MINDS OF A GOOD SHEPHERD OR THAT OF A HIRELING. Some of us, in one way or another, have had people work for us or have asked others to do what we cannot do for ourselves and at other times have worked for others or helped them do what they cannot do for themselves. When we worked for others or helped them, did we render the services the way we do our things? The golden rule is this: "Treat others as you would like to be treated" (Matthew 7:12). Recently, I asked myself if the way I work for Jesus Christ now is the way I would like others to work for me if I am in Jesus' shoes. Each of us needs to ask ourselves a similar question. All of us in this world are God's laborers. Are we working to please God or as we like? The sheep that Jesus cared for belongs to God and Jesus cared for His sheep as God wanted (John 6:38). GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US SOMETHING OR SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF. God makes people come our way for good reasons. The way we treat people in our lives and around us shows if we have the heart of a good shepherd or that of a hireling. When I was in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, I pointed out during one of my sermons that I did not know that I would ever come to this country and did not ask to be sent here. Before I was issued a visa, I prayed to Jesus Christ to make the Immigration deny me a visa or make my Archbishop change his mind if He did not want me to work for Him in this country. I prayed like this because I wanted Jesus Christ to be the one leading me or deciding for me. God cannot bring people together for no good reason. God wants us to make a positive difference in people's lives and would like others to make a positive difference in our lives. A good shepherd should be more concerned with making a positive difference in the world and people's lives. We need to make a positive difference in the lives of our family members, friends, colleagues, co-workers, and so forth. LOVING OTHERS IS THE SUREST WAY TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN PEOPLE'S LIVES. We love by being truthful, merciful, polite, respectful, generous, and caring. Jesus made so much difference by being truthful. Being truthful can open doors for hatred, maltreatment, and rejection. It was not easy for Jesus to make a positive difference in our lives. Jesus suffered

persecution and rejection for being a good shepherd. ANY GOOD LEADER MUST NOT BE LOVED BY ALL. May God help our family heads, political leaders, and each of us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, Amen.