



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Today's responsorial psalm is one that is familiar to many and quite appropriate for this season of Lent. We are reminded that throughout our earthly lives, while it is easy to be distracted by materialistic things, the only true necessity we have is faith in God. And so the custom of giving something up for Lent is meant to eliminate some of these materialistic distractions to grow closer to God and stronger in faith. Hopefully, by the end of Lent we recognize that the things we have given up, whether it be social media, our favorite food, or some bad habit, are not as necessary to our existence as we may think. We see, as the psalm supports, that these things are just merely "wants".

The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

So how exactly *is* God our shepherd? We don't see men running around herding sheep in our everyday lives, so how does this apply to us? God is not running around and herding us together and making sure we stay in line doing exactly what we're supposed to be doing, for if this were the case then sin would not be such an issue. I remember when I was in my early CCD years, this psalm was often explained as "we are all God's sheep and He is watching over us in Heaven," but now as a much older and wiser 20-year old I find it difficult for some reason to identify with a sheep. I'm human, I make mistakes, I sin, I get frustrated with God from time to time, and I stray from the flock when I know I shouldn't. I fail. I struggle. I'm not always happy with the way God answers or doesn't answer my prayers.

But then I look at where I am right now. I'm at The Catholic University of America. I'm surrounded by Catholic men who share in the struggles and triumphs of Faith. I have friends and family who love and support me. I can't help but feel like *this* is God shepherding me--putting me exactly where I need to be exactly when I need to be here. It's not about God answering all of my prayers and making my life a walk in the park.

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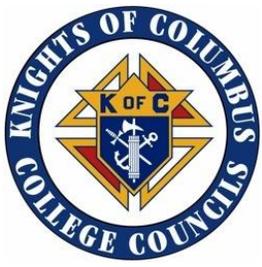


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Yes, The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall not.

This past weekend, a group of Knights from our council went on a pilgrimage to Gettysburg, PA and Emmitsburg, MD. We visited many Catholic sites, including a parish that dates back to the American Civil War, the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, and my personal favorite, the replica of the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. (I'm a little biased because the real Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is in France, and I'm a bit obsessed with everything French). While we were at the grotto we all sat in meditation, reflecting and praying on our intentions that we had brought on this pilgrimage. I wanted to be very careful about what I asked God for in these prayers. I didn't want to pray, "Dear God, please get me that internship," or "Dear God, help me turn that B into an A," because ultimately all of these types of requests could be fulfilled from within. They just take extra effort and determination that God cannot necessarily force out of you. I didn't want to ask God for something specific because I've learned that what I *think* I need isn't always what God *knows* I need. So instead I just prayed that God would continue to put me exactly where I needed to be as he has done so far for me throughout my life. It's been this shepherding act of God that has kept me trusting in Him through all of the difficult times and uplifting me through all of the disappointing times. And so my reflection for this week is to not ask for so much from God, but just allow Him to guide me where I need to be and keep Him present in everything that I am doing.

The LORD is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

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