

# The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

## Jesus Speaks of the Good Shepherd

Catholic News Service

### Q&A

How does a shepherd enter his sheepfold?  
What did Jesus say He would do for His sheep?

Read more about it in John 10

**"A**men, amen, I say to you," Jesus said to the crowd, "whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ... The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

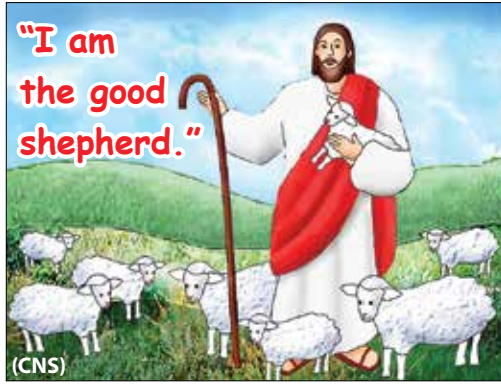
Jesus knew that the people who were listening would understand His parable about a shepherd and his sheep, because many of them owned sheep or lived near someone who did. But Jesus was not finished with His story.

"The shepherd walks ahead, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," He said. "But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."

Then Jesus explained His message in plain language.

"Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture."

Jesus emphasized His next point: "A thief comes only



### Bible Trivia

Who does Jesus say He also must lead? (Hint: Jn 10:16)

**Answer:** Other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

to steal and slaughter and destroy; 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.

"A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern 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."

Then Jesus explained the spiritual meaning of His story about the shepherd. "I will lay down my life for the sheep. ... This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

When Jesus had finished His parable, some of the people argued among themselves about what He meant. Some thought He was possessed or out of His mind. Others said those claims could not be true because of the miracles Jesus had performed.



### Elgin Students Receive Thank-You Letter from Pope Francis

ELGIN—The second-grade class at St. Thomas More School received a signed thank-you letter from Pope Francis, a response to the letters they wrote him earlier this year. In his letter, Pope Francis assured the students of his prayers for them and asked them to pray for him. He also wrote about Jesus' love for each of them as they celebrate reconciliation and holy Communion, writing, "I hope you remember that Jesus always remains a friend who never leaves you alone, no matter what happens." The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, told their teacher, Valerie Ricotta, that Pope Francis read all the letters himself — an uncommon occurrence, Archbishop Pierre said. The children and their teacher say they are delighted and humbled by this incredible blessing.



(Photos provided/ Sonja Keane)



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### St. Mary Junior High Helps Younger Students with Colorful Easter Tradition

ELGIN—On Holy Thursday, April 6, students at St. Mary School joined in a school-wide Easter egg dyeing activity organized by eighth-grade homeroom teacher Sue Turas. The junior high students helped set up tables in the gym and prepared the Easter egg dye, and the younger students brought hard-boiled eggs. The older students then helped the younger ones with dyeing their eggs to take home for the Easter weekend.

