

Feed My Sheep



You may well ask why I have chosen this image of the Christ Child wrapped up in the manger. It stood in the morning light last Epiphany, a year ago. As the sun passed across the room the bars of the window pane formed the shadow of a cross against the infant savior. I was instantly reminded of the approaching season of Lent. All too quickly our light in epiphany is marked by the shadow of the cross.

As Episcopalians, here on earth, we joyfully live in the resurrection light in God's Kingdom. We are ever mindful of those who are not able to live into the light because of poverty, hunger, hardship and a marginalized life.

Note that the candle that appears with the icon is not lit. Although we can see the icon and perceive its brightness, witness the cross and the symbol of Holy week, the unlit candle remains. My understanding is that you, you in our diocese are the light that shines across central PA in service to the poor. Your actions and ministry are the brightness shining in the Kingdom of God. You are the people of God who are lighting the unlit candle.

There are so many of you working secretly in our vast space of ministry which is the dioceses of Central PA, I hope to seek you out and find the light that shines so brightly in our midst., to worship with you and continue on together ministering to the hungry and poor.

Greetings!

It is indeed an honor for me to serve the hungry and poor in our diocese and to be asked by Bp. Gepert, to head up a ministry that is so dear to my heart. Its name, *Feed My Sheep*, taken from John: 21:17 recalls the encounter Christ has with Peter and some of the disciples. Christ's request comes at the conclusion of a meal, a meal that Christ had guided the disciples how to catch. Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus^{al}), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were present.

John 21: 15 -19 ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." "Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me? "He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. "Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me? "Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"



Central PA Food Bank Gathering September 2014

For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you
all poor and neglected persons
whom it would be easy for us
to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick,
and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those
who are broken in body or spirit,
and to turn their sorrow
into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for
our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Feed My Sheep is in its infancy and yet already is calling out those individuals and parishes who have a who have a passionate desire to minister and be present to those who are poor.

So I offer prayers of thanksgiving for your ministry and ask you to consider getting in touch when you are able.

Your feeding ministries to the needy are as varied as the colors of the pumpkins I witnessed at the market last fall. Your generosity and hospitality offers us the joy of the brightness of each gift. I look forward to talking with you, meeting you and discussing how we can learn from your gifts and talents, how we can share the common stories of service with the poor in whom we see the face of Christ. Now just two weeks into my new ministry I have already heard of your devotion and holy encounters which I will share on these pages from month to month season to season. Please feel free to contact me at deacon.wanda@gmail.com or call 717-422-1780.

In Peace,
Rev. Wanda Kloza, Deacon