

Thoughts By Sr. Jo Ann

Fourth Sunday of Easter

The readings for this Easter Season are filled with excitement as Peter continues to preach to the people. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter's words "cut to the heart" of the people of the House of Israel. Their response is a deep and heartfelt conversion. They recognize their part in the death of Jesus and ask forgiveness. With no hesitation, Peter promises them the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

I ask you to continue to pray for our Elect, we have three very patient people waiting to be baptized. I know Peter's preaching accepted 3000 people added that very day. We have 3 wonderful people: Lauren Heitt, Vicki King, and Chris Douglas. Please continue to pray for them.

In John's Gospel we are presented with two images: The Shepherd and the Gatekeeper. The shepherd leads the sheep, not with a staff or harsh words but with the gentle calling of his own voice.

I ask: have these days of quarantine reintroduced you to the gentleness of the Risen Christ, to quiet moments? I know most of you are working from home and helping your children with schoolwork. Yet I suggest that there is an opportunity here to find the stillness of the Shepherd's voice.

Allow Silence to be your "Gatekeeper".