



*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:14-15)*

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)*

Jesus knows each and every one of us. Understand that this is not a casual acquaintance but a deep and intimate knowing, akin to that within the one-flesh union of a man and his wife. After all, we have been incorporated into His body and are truly one with Him! He has known us from well before He formed us in our mothers' bellies. Indeed, He has known us from before the foundation of the world! And from that very moment He so loved us that He died on the cross and rose again so that we could be made one with Him and the Father. He knows when we sit down, stand up, and lie down, and where we are going. He knows what we are thinking and what we are going to say even before we say it. He even knows the number of hairs that we have on our heads. He knows where we, like sheep, fall short and is there to forgive us and guide us back onto the right path. Each of us, even the weakest among us, is truly that important to Him!

*And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16)*

He knows every individual, from the moment of his/her conception. After all, He forms *everyone*. And He truly desires the very same intimate connection with all those outside the Church that He has with us. After all, *all* human life matters to Him! Good Shepherd Sunday, like every day in the Church Year, truly proclaims the sanctity of all human life, from fertilization to forever. May God richly bless our Gospel-motivated voices for life on this day and throughout our lives.