

St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians 2:2-8    John 21: 15-17

Today we have the memorial to St. Pious X who was Pope from 1903 to 1914. He directed the production of the first outline of the Code of Canon Law which was finally produced in 1917, The Reading and Gospel express the reality of the teachings of our Faith and teaching in the World.

I often wonder why the Catholic Faith is so hard to comprehend and accept, when its precepts are so clearly expressed in today's Reading and Gospel. Why should St. Paul (and we) need, 'The Courage from God to proclaim his Good News,' when the whole message is about love?

St. Paul points out that, "We have not taken to preaching because we are deluded, or immoral, or trying to deceive...Never have our speeches been simply flattery, or a cover for trying to get money, nor have we ever looked for any special honour from men...when we could have imposed on you...as apostles of Christ. Instead, we were unassuming. Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well."

St Pious X took up and promoted this message as Peter had before him when, after telling Jesus three times that he loved him, Peter agreed to "Feed his Lambs, Look after his Sheep, and Feed his Sheep. It is a message we too are asked to proclaim by our lives.