

Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman is credited with writing a short reflection titled, "The Mission of My Life."

"The Mission of My Life

*God has created me to do him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission.
I never may know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.
I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good,
I shall do His work;
I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it,
if I do but keep His commandments.*

*Therefore I will trust Him.
Whatever, wherever I am,
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;
if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
He does nothing in vain;
He knows what He is about.
He may take away my friends,
He may throw me among strangers,
He may make me feel desolate,
make my spirits sink,
hide the future from me;
still He knows what He is about."*

In today's reading from St. John's Gospel, we hear about "The Good Shepherd."

Jesus tells us to beware of "thieves and robbers" who attempt to present another "way."

Four chapters later in St. John's Gospel, we hear Jesus tell us that He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Jesus isn't "a way" or "a truth" or "a life." Rather He is "THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life."

The secret to an abundant life in Jesus Christ is to make Him "YOUR Way, YOUR Truth, and YOUR Life."

God HAS given each one of you a definite mission in life.

While you may not always understand it on this side of Heaven, you will understand it when you get to Heaven.

While it may not always be an easy mission, it is your mission - and has been entrusted to you - and you alone.

No one can tell you what the future holds for you.

Health ... or sickness?

Wealth ... or poverty?

An easy life ... or suffering?

But each of you was chosen by God before you were born.

On top of that, God chose each of you at your baptism to be given a particular mission - unique to you and to you alone.

Live your life in Jesus Christ - abundantly - by following HIM - THE Way, THE Truth, THE Life ... and let Him be ... YOUR Way, YOUR Truth, YOUR Life.

As St. Peter admonishes us in the First Reading from Acts to:

Save [ourselves] from this corrupt generation.

Because, as he further says in the Second Reading:

*For [we] had gone astray like sheep,
but [we] have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of [our] souls.*

God desires for us to be happy with Him for all eternity in Heaven. And to achieve this, He has given each one of us a mission - to be fulfilled through our life - lived abundantly in Jesus Christ.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ - let us resolve to live each day of our lives abundantly in Jesus Christ - the Good Shepherd - let us be nourished by OUR Good Shepherd ... and let us ask Him to be OUR Way ... OUR Truth ... and OUR Life.