

GOSPEL PEARLS

Faithful to the Church's teachings

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When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." (John 21: 15-19)

One of the tasks of the Petrine ministry and all successors to Peter is to shepherd a flock of souls saved by Christ by way of His sacrifice on the cross. Popes should lead the faithful to feed in the holy pastures of the Word of God, to help them discern good from evil in their daily lives and to obey the Will of God. As Vicars of Christ popes must teach and repeat what Jesus had taught, so too must all bishops and priests. Catechists and parents must also be committed to the faithful by upholding of the Word of God and the Church's magisterium . Whoever is called to instruct in matters of faith must not pass on his or her own personal ideas but must ultimately echo the voice of the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ