



The Feast of Corpus Christi

The Mystical Body of Christ

There was a group of children in my Montessori class that was just turning four when I made a presentation to them on the Good Shepherd Parable. They seemed to receive it well and all of them often worked with the Good Shepherd material. I began to realize one thing, though, and that was that none of the nine children seemed to have realized they were one of the sheep. I prayed about it and decided to revisit the parable with them.

We gathered together around the sheepfold and the ten sheep. They were very peaceful, attentive, and prayerful as we read the scripture. Then I said, "And who is the Good Sheoherd?" In unison, they all replied, "Jesus," in a very respectful way. Then I said, "I wonder who the sheep could be?" There was absolute silence for minutes. No one moved. No one said a word. Then, in the midst of this wonderful silence, one boy moved his hand to the sheepfold, picked up one of the sheep and said very quietly and reverently, "I think this one's name is Danny." That was his name. He held the sheep in his hand and put it on his lap looking at it lovingly. Again some silence. Then a little girl named Susie picked up another sheep and said, "I think this one's name is Susie." Again silence. A third child did the same saying, "I think this one is Joe" There were nine children in the group and each did the same thing, picking up a sheep. calling it by their own name, and silently putting it in their lap. Again lots of silence, as we sat around the sheepfold with only one sheep left. Soon I noticed that they were looking at the one sheep left in the sheepfold and then looking at me. Some began to smile. I realized what they were thinking and finally I picked up the last sheep and said, "I think this one's name is Betty." They all smiled, but remained in silent contemplation for quite a while.

I myself was moved to contemplation.

Those children do not realize it but they gave me a deeper appreciation of my being one of the Good Shepherd's sheep. As I thought about this whole incident, I also became more aware of the great role children play in the Mystical Body of Christ. Children can bring us adults closer to Christ. What a gift!

Betty Hissong

