



Our first granddaughter was introduced to the Good Shepherd about a week after she was born as I visited them often and provided CGS materials every time I visited. Seven years ago, one month before our Lori's 2nd birthday, I joined the family for Mass. When we came home, I noticed Lori was setting up her altar materials on her table. I took a photo since she looked so intent on "reading" her

little Bible (and grandparents take lots of photos of the first grandchild!)

But soon her gaze focused towards another part of the room where her sheepfold was set up. She quickly ran over and carried the Good Shepherd image along with one sheep, set the sheep at the altar table, then took the Good Shepherd and quickly went for the next sheep. She did this 10 times, each time carrying only one sheep and saying what only a parent can understand of almost two-year old speech. When asked to clarify "What is she saying?" Lori's mom said "He calls them by name."

Soon I saw the sheep were lining up. She worked with the materials as she had experienced the people in church. I had not shown her the Eucharistic Presence!

On the next photo she has lined up the sheep as they were following each other to the chalice. She even took extra candle holders, took out the candles, and used them as extra chalices! The priest at Mass had several Chalices for Communion for the large congregation!

The final photo was the great surprise! When the sheep were finished at the altar, instead of replacing the sheep in the sheepfold, she took the Crucifix, chalices, paten, and Good Shepherd image and placed them in the sheepfold.

Although my daughter and I had read her the Good Shepherd parable often, I had never shown her the Eucharistic Presence! She was quite serious during this "work" and I almost felt guilty for taking the photos but felt that no one would believe this!

How could a child not yet two, reflect so seriously on this great mystery! She didn't have the verbal language to tell us but obviously, she saw the sign language of the Liturgy! It truly is not what we "teach" them but rather what they teach us!

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