

Homily Notes from the 4th Sunday of Easter

- **Story of young couple influencing others. They were shepherding their children**

The way that teacher or leader relate to people shows whether they are true leaders or shepherds or they are thieves and murders.

If we are a true shepherd, a leader of others, we cannot murder and rob from others.

(Comment on Jesus as the Gate)

Jesus says that the true leader is one who greatly influences others by laying down his life for them. It is only by passing through the gate of laying down our lives for others, that we become good shepherds.

You may say, “Well I am not a shepherd. I am not a pastor or a politician or own a business. How can I influence anyone?”

Please look at the person next to you and say, ‘Neighbor, Neighbor, Who are the people you influence?’”

Story of young man in parish:

- **Struggling to finish high school**
- **Struggling to raise a family**

- **Influencing a friend who does not go to church; his friend's mom gave him the choice of going or not going; relatives are very strict and rigid; he could not even THINK of going to such a church; The young man from Corpus Christi quickly spoke up: "That's not how our church is! He is heavily influencing his friend.**

(PAUSE)

Today is Mother's day: Mothers are people who influence our lives so much.

Story of Kevin Durant

- **Most valuable player of the National Basketball Association**
- **23 minute acceptance speech (available on U Tube) thanked all the players, coaches and staff by name and how each one had helped him and shared in his award.**
- **Last 90 seconds dedicated to his mother**
 - **Single parent at 18, had him at 21; struggled to make a home for him (He can remember moving into an apartment at the age of six and they didn't even have a bed or a couch to sit on but they were thrilled to have some place to live.**

- She got him up, kept him running each morning, came and cheered at each of his games from his earliest years of organized ball.
- Talk about influencing someone! His mother got a standing ovation.

Olivian DeSouza honored at a banquet of 250 people, mostly nurses. She influenced people by teaching them.

- She faced discrimination – welcomed at Providence Hospital
- She influenced people by teaching them
- Over eighty nurses stood up
- For many years president of _____.

As I mentioned earlier, today is mother's day: a day to lift up mothers who influence our lives, true shepherds. Oh yes, sometime they try to coerce us into doing things, but they learn, sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly, that it does not work. It is only following the model of Jesus, when they lay down their lives for us, do they influence us the most.

Today, as we lift up mothers who for most of us, have the greatest influence on our lives. Also in this month of May, when we lift up Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the Christ, we remember her words at

wedding in Cana of Galilee when the wine ran out. She said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." We are simply called to do what he tells us.

In the end, is that not what any Good Shepherd does, "We follow the lead of Jesus who laid down his life for those in need.