

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“An Actor or a Friend?”

A story once told...

“After a large dinner at one of England’s stately mansions, a famous actor entertained the guests with stunning Shakespearean readings. Then, as an encore he offered to accept a request. A shy, gray-haired priest asked if he knew the Twenty-third Psalm. The actor said, ‘Yes, I do and I will give it on one condition: that when I am finished you recite the very same Psalm.’

The priest was a little embarrassed, but consented. The actor did a beautiful rendition... ‘My Shepherd is the Lord, there is nothing I shall want,’ and on and on.

The guests applauded loudly when the actor was done, and then it was the priest’s turn. The man got up and said the same words but this time there was no applause, just a hushed silence and the beginning of a tear in some eyes.

The actor savored the silence for a few moments and then stood up. He said, ‘Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you realized what happened here tonight. I knew the Psalm, but this man knows the Shepherd.’” —*Anonymous Source*

This poignant story challenges each of us to look at our approach and motivation for being involved in religion.

Do we see our Catholic Faith as an end in itself or, rather, as a means to an end? Are we only concerned in knowing facts and figures about the Shepherd or are we living our Faith in order to know the Shepherd?

Do we have a personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Your answer to that question makes all the difference in the world!

I encourage you to use what the Church offers and gives you to seek and find the Christ. Begin and deepen that friendship with the God who so desires to be in union with you!

In your faith life, are you an actor or a friend?

F. Mike