

Auntie, "you never need be naughty. The question is, how hard will Anna try?"

Anna stared doubtfully at Auntie. Anna loved comfort and petting and doing as she pleased.

"I don't know yet," said Anna at last. "But I'll talk to Jesus about it, when my First Communion comes."

With that Anna threw herself back into Auntie's arms and contentedly watched her friend the blue-bird amusing himself looking for insects among the leaves. Auntie kissed Anna's plump, dimpled cheek. All four children were different, and the Good Shepherd would lead each one the way He knew to be the best.

"Nobody could do anything better," said Auntie. "The Good Shepherd will take the best of care of the lambs who always listen for His voice. It's the way of little lambs to follow foolish things, to enter paths not safe for creatures so small and untrained. Then the Good Shepherd calls, 'Come back, stay near Me! I know where you will be safe, and if you listen for My voice, you shall never be alone.' Best of all He tells us, 'I am going to feed you. I intend giving you the Bread of Angels, which is My Body and Blood. Little lambs, prepare your hearts by loving Me as much as you can. Don't be afraid to laugh and play and be very happy. I want you to come to My Feast full of joy.' The Good Shepherd wants a happy flock about Him."

"We're very happy," said John; "it must be terrible not to know about the Good Shepherd."

"Like the heathen," said Philip.

John gazed far, far off, beyond where the fluffy clouds seemed to touch the tops of the hills.

"Some little boys," said he softly, "are priests when they grow up; and God lets them go to the heathen and tell them about the Good Shepherd."

"And," said Rose solemnly, "if the heathens kill the priests, they're martyrs. Aren't they, Auntie?"

"Yes, dear. To die for the Faith Our Lord taught, is to be a martyr. And, do you know, martyrdom is sometimes called the 'Baptism of Blood.'"

"Yes," said Philip. "I studied about it. If anybody who hasn't been baptised with water, should be killed