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**Weaving Compassion and Reconciliation Rooted in the Spirituality
of the Good Shepherd in Global Solidarity**

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EMMAUS Center for Psycho-Spiritual Formation

Day Two, May 25, 2008

FOURTH PRAYER: OUR GOOD SHEPHERDS

First point. We read contemplatively and pray John 10, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and Psalm 23. We take note of what strikes us, what impresses us most about the qualities of the good shepherd. Is it any of the following: knows his sheep, goes ahead of his sheep, followed by his sheep, “gate” of the sheepfold, savior, leads his sheep to the pasture, giver of abundant life, lays down his life for the sheep, brings other sheep to the fold, unites the fold into one flock, restores my soul, leads me to the right paths, comforts me, prepares a table for me, anoints me. Pray and reflect on the Good Shepherd as a leader who discerns what is good for his sheep, who challenges us toward transcendence and freedom.

Second point. Pray and reflect on the situation of your Province, imagining it as a sheepfold, a flock of sheep. What is the condition of the sheepfold? Are some lost, wandering, and led astray? Do some need consoling and closer guidance? Can they be left alone? What consoles and afflicts the sheep? What do they need? Pray and reflect on your leaders. Pray and reflect on yourselves as leaders of your Province. What qualities of the Good Shepherd do you possess? What qualities of the Good Shepherd do you need to nurture, develop, practice in a special way, at this time? What specific qualities of the Good Shepherd are particularly needed now, considering the situation of your sheepfold? What qualities can we give emphasis on?

Third point. We pray in thanksgiving for the leaders-shepherds who have guided our Province, in different ways, in different pastures, in different times and seasons. We pray in supplication for the leaders-shepherds we are choosing in this Chapter, so that they may be blessed by the qualities and spirituality of the Good Shepherd. We pray for ourselves that we may be blessed with the gift of discernment to see, love, and follow the Good Shepherds in our Province.

FINAL PRAYER: INTEGRATION

We go back to the Opening Prayer of Day Two, praying and reflecting on the Mystery of Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We offer our two days of prayer and unite them to this Mystery. We offer and unite our present moment, where, how, and who we are. We offer and unite our desires for our future. We offer and unite our acts of transcendence and freedom. We offer and unite our Good Shepherds, past, present and future. All in the one body of Christ, all in our one community centered in Christ. Amen.