

GOSPEL PEARLS

Recognize those who announce Jesus

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The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Lk 2: 17)

The shepherds, who daily guided the flock that was entrusted to their care, on this occasion allowed themselves to be guided by the divine message given to them by the angels. The shepherds did not have any social status, and yet God chose them to be the first witnesses of the birth of His Son and of the mission entrusted to Him, contained in the very meaning of His name, Jesus: "God saves." May we strive to always recognize those who announce Jesus with honesty without concern for their social status.