

**May 5, 2020-Tuesday, Fourth Week of Easter**

## **Cinco de Mayo**

Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for “Fifth of May”) is a holiday in Mexico, and popular among Mexican-Americans in the United States. It commemorates a military victory at Puebla, Mexico, in 1862. In itself, and from a strategic point of view, the battle was not that important. But symbolically, it meant a great deal.

Mexico had gained independence from Spain in 1810. This was followed by internal political wars, then the Mexican American War, and finally the Mexican Civil War of 1858. These were now behind them, but the economy was in ruins.

France, using as an excuse Mexico’s failure to pay its debt, sent an invading army to take over Mexico City and install Napoleon’s relative, Maximilian of Austria, as ruler. The French army was moving towards Mexico City when, on May 5, 1862, a small and poorly armed detachment of Mexican soldiers defeated them.

France eventually sent a much larger army that managed to take over Mexico City in 1864, but the success was short-lived, lasting only three years.

Cinco de Mayo honors the spirit of outnumbered militia that bravely withstood the powerful French army. It stands as a symbol of courage in Mexico’s struggle for independence.

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Today, about a third of U.S. Catholics are Hispanic.

*Jesus said: “The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he had driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.”*  
(John 10:3-4)

As a Christian, I believe that in following Jesus, his values, his example, I will find life—life to the full.

But the example of Jesus, the values of Jesus are not easy to live. I am a sinful person. I make mistakes. Sometimes my instincts are wrong.

I need a shepherd. I need to be shepherded.

I need the support, the correction, the challenge, the reminders of others in the Christian community, the traditions of the Church, spiritual leaders, prayers, the Scriptures...

I can’t do it alone.

I don’t *have* to do it alone.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord