

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

More sentiments of gratitude overflow from my heart. This time I would like to thank everyone who gave me gifts during my birthday and for the Christmas. I received a lot – clothes, treats, cards, cash, gift cards. Above all, of course, I am confident that all of you are praying for me during my birthday and during the holidays. I feel loved, and I thank you very much.... Let us pray for those who perished in the Ukrainian plane crash in Iran last Tuesday. Of the 176 that died, 63 were Canadians. Let us pray especially for them and for the consolation of their families.... While as of writing tensions between Iran and the US-led allied forces seem to have de-escalated, let us continue to pray for peace in the Middle East. A lot of jokes and memes of the World War III that never came to be are circulating on social media. Do not post or share them. War is no joke. I personally believe it was prayers that prevented the conflict from escalating. So, please, pray for peace consciously and fervently. We cannot afford another war to erupt. It does not solve anything. The words of Pope St. John Paul II comes to mind: “No to war! War is not always inevitable. It is always a defeat for humanity. International law, honest dialogue, solidarity between States, the noble exercise of diplomacy: these are methods worthy of individuals and nations in resolving their differences.” A REQUEST: Kindly volunteer to do the collection and bring the offering to the altar during the offertory. Or, please do not refuse if the greeter asks you to do so. Yes, you might feel ashamed. But, remember that the other members of the community will thankful when you do it, just as you are grateful when the others did it. On the other hand, what other people think does not really matter. What matters only is what God thinks when you do it for love of Him.