



In his homily at Mass on May 4, Pope Francis reflected on what makes a genuine bishop, stressing on the qualities of watchfulness, closeness and being involved in the life of his faithful.

By Robin Gomes

According to Pope Francis, a good bishop is one who is close to his flock, awake and watching, defending and confirming them in the faith. This was the heart of the homily of the Pope at his Friday Morning Mass in the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta residence in the Vatican.

The disorientation of God's people

Pope Francis was commenting on the day's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter and the apostles, keen to put the Christians of Antioch at peace, send them Paul and Barnabas along with two others. Those in charge of the Church in Antioch, believing themselves to be true orthodox theologians of the faith, were in fact disorientating the faithful, the Pope said. On the other hand, the apostles, i.e. today's bishops, confirm them in the faith.