

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 21st SUNDAY YEAR C 2022.

THE NARROW GOLDEN GATE:

The longest suspended bridge in the world till 1964 was the famous Golden **GATE** bridge in California. It connects the city of San Francisco and southern part of Marin county. You cannot shortly access the city from Marin except through this bridge. It is the shortest access gate to the city from Marin county.

This gate should be slightly wider than the Golden Heavenly *Narrow one of kingdom of heaven* Jesus is talking about we must access the kingdom of God through that narrow gate.

Jesus in the Gospel is asked a question all of us would like the answer, ***will only a few be saved? (Lk.13:23)***. He never gave a precise answer to the overwhelming question rather he said and he is still saying ***do your best to enter by the narrow gate for many will try to enter and will not be able (Lk.13:24)***. He says the gate is wide open to everyone as we see from our first reading. The prophet talking to the recovering exiles from Babylon he sees great things for Jerusalem, people of ***all nations will come over and worship the true God even the Jewish priesthood will be shared to other nations***. This tells us that God wants **all people to be saved**.

Jesus challenges the Jews as well as us that it is not only matter of eating, drinking or preaching in our streets, saying and attending masses or known to each other to qualify for the kingdom rather the terms are clearly stipulated by John the Baptist, **repentance, acceptance of the gospel, commitment to love, peace and justice and heart of a child and doing the will**

of God. He is telling us we must make sure we fit through the narrow gate, we have to strive and shed away the extra baggage of **hatred, greedy, jealousy, apathy pride and all that weighs us down.**

we need to be in a good spiritual shape through **prayer, sacraments, good works of mercy.** we are not competing to enter into that kingdom at all, the way is there and given freely, we only need to **compete with our actions and activities, our laziness, material possession, pleasure, self centred, envy, sinful attractions of the society** which might be obstacles for the kingdom if we allow them to possess us. Our world is really a battle field with those vices accompanying us at all moments and everywhere here on earth.

Our lord is warning us that the pitfalls, struggles and challenges on our journey thus making **through the narrow gate are inevitable.**

Once we get rid of all these obstacles, then we will be in a good **spiritual shape, more efficient** think more **clearly on our faith our connection and relationship with God.** The good virtues of **care, concern and love of one another** will be released and ***open the narrow gate thus opening the way for the GRACE OF GOD*** establishing that **union with our creator.**

We need to build that spiritual muscle to make ready to **pave through the narrow gate.** God's grace present in all events of our life's, will prepare us for this entry if we follow Christ who is ***the way, the truth and the life and no one can reach the father except through him (Jn.14:6).***

