

## **FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY YEAR-C-2025:**

### **THE NARROW 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 the Marin county. You cannot access the Marine county and other Northern cities shortly except through this bridge. Most likely this gate is wider than the **narrow heavenly one the kingdom of heaven!** Jesus is talking about. We must access the kingdom of heaven through that narrow gate.

Jesus in the gospel (Lk 13:22-30) is asked a question all would like to know and are anxious to get the answer, **will only a few be saved?** (V23) Jesus didn't give a precise answer to his overwhelming question, rather he said and still saying today **do your best to enter by the narrow gate, for many will try to enter and will not be able (v 24)** **able** The invitation is there for all and the gate is wide open for all as seen in the first reading (Is 66:18-21). The prophet talking to the recovering exiles from Babylon, he sees great things for Jerusalem, people from **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 today that it is not a matter of **eating, drinking, or preaching in our streets, attending mass or being in a Catholic institution, knowing one another** these don't qualify you to enter through the narrow gate. The terms are **stipulated by John the Baptist, repentance, acceptance of the gospel, commitment to peace, love, justice, having a heart of a child (Humility) and doing the will of God.** We have to strive with these qualities to enter that

narrow gate.He is telling us to shed off the **extra baggage of hatred,jealousy ,greedy,apathy,pride** and all that weighs us down,

We must be in a good spiritual shape through **prayer,good works of mercy and other sacraments**.we dont need to compete with anybody for the kingdom of heaven,compete only with **good actions and activities**.we must allow **laziness,envy,material possession,pleasure and other sinful attractions divert focus from the narrow gate**.

**Let us** possess them but don't let them posses you.Jesus is warning us pitfalls,struggles and challenges on our journey through the narrow gate are inevitable but he is with us.**behold am with you till the end of time**.

Getting rid of those obstacles will pave way to spiritual shape,clarity in our connection and better 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 Grace of God**.

We need to build that spiritual muscle thus making ready to go through that narrow gate.we cannot do this on our own only through the Grace in person of our Lord Jesus who **is the way,the truth and life we cannot reach the father only through Jesus(Jn.14:6)**

**MAY THE GOOD LORD GIVE US HIS GRACE IN THE STRUGGLE TO ENTER THIS NARROW GATE!**