



Deacon Greg's Corner



The Narrow Gate



“Strive to enter through the Narrow Gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”

Last Sunday in his homily Fr. Joe talked about Jesus as the Good Shepherd opening the gate and calling His sheep. That got me thinking about what Jesus also says about entering the “*Narrow Gate*.” What does Jesus mean in His above statement? He means that we cannot enter Heaven by our own will or through our own efforts. This clear and somewhat shocking statement from our Lord should have the effect of causing us all to step back and look at our lives so as to sincerely and humbly examine the path we are on.

It takes true humility to face the truth, at times, and to admit if we are trying to rely more upon ourselves than upon Christ. The “*Narrow Gate*” is that gate through which the humble enter. Pride and self-sufficiency lead us to attempt to make our own path to Heaven. But this path is never the correct one.

Entering the “*Narrow Gate*” also means that we listen to God. He, as the Divine Shepherd, is always calling to us in a gentle way. Only when we are attentive to His voice will we know where He is leading us. Only then will we discover the way through the one and only “*Narrow Gate*”.

Dear friends, reflect, today, upon that moment when you meet our Lord face to face. What will that encounter be like? Will it be one where He greets you with open arms saying, “*Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your reward.*” Or will it be one in which He says, “*I do not know you.*” I hope and pray it will be His first greeting!

God Bless!

Deacon Greg