

## **TWENTY - FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 08/21/2022**

*In our Scriptures today, in the last chapter of Isaiah he sends them into shock. They saw themselves as “**Insiders**.” As descendants of Abraham, they imagined they alone would one day behold the glory of God. They pictured all non -Jews as “**Outsiders!**” However, Isaiah reveals to them that God wants all nations and people of language to belong to his flock. He offers the gift of Universal Salvation to all who will keep his commandments.*

*Jesus too in the Gospel sends his contemporaries into shock by warning them that they had better be on guard because they could very easily become “**Outsiders!**” Unless they are careful, they might find the doors locked. Those of you who have eaten and drank with me might just hear the words, “I don’t know you. Depart from me you evildoers!” Just because we are Catholics and eat and drink with Him every weekend is no guarantee that Heaven is automatically ours!*

*The Kingdom of Heaven is pure gift. We do not earn it. However, we can prepare to receive it. We can dispose ourselves to have it offered to us. There is one condition. That is, “That we enter through the Narrow Gate!”*

### **What is that “Narrow Gate?”**

*As our Gospel acclamation today tells us, it is none other than **Jesus!** He is the Sheep gate. He is the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life**. No one comes to the Father, except through Him.” You and I enter through that Gate when:*

- A) As the father says, we “listen to his Beloved Son;”*
- B) As Mary instructs us, we “Do whatever He tells us;”*
- C) As St. Paul mentions in our second reading today, “we accept our trials in life as signs of God’s love for us;”*
- D) Like Jesus, we live the values of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, humility, being peacemakers, and loving our enemies as well the poor. We only become “**Insiders**” of God’s Kingdom by living as best we can the kingdom values.*