



Homily for  
THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
20/21 August, 2016

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**Fr. Dwayne's homily follows....**

I. Is Jesus' warning in the gospel directed to us?

Those who were following Jesus were warned that the gate is narrow and that many who think they will enter into the kingdom of heaven will find themselves shut out. Could that also apply to us? After all, we could say with the people of the gospel, "We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets."

We could say, "Well, *we're* the ones who are church. *We* go to church regularly. *We* didn't skip this weekend. *We're* not out on the golf course or on the river. *We* do pray. *We are* faithful. All of that is good, of course – but there is a danger in the sense it can lead to a kind of smugness. It can lead us to thinking we are assured of salvation and take us in the direction of judging the moral failure of others whom we perceive are not faithful.

That, of course, is not our judgment call. Salvation is God's pure gift and only God

decides who enters the narrow gate. That is not our decision.

Instead, we need to remember we are also called to bring them in!

II. It is God's vision that all people share in the joys of eternal life.

The first reading is the end of the prophet Isaiah in which he presents the image of a gathering of all nations to Jerusalem. It is a gathering comprised of people of every language and people from distant coastlands. Fugitives are sent out to go and get them and bring them in. They come on horses and chariots, in carts and riding mules and camels. They come from *everywhere* to Jerusalem, God's holy mountain.

III. But they come because someone has brought them or invited them.

The responsorial psalm is a simple two verse psalm praising God's goodness and in the refrain we are reminded: "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News."

We are commissioned to be those witnesses who bring those who do not know God, who have not found his love, who do not follow in his ways.

IV. Go out and to tell all the world the good news.

We proclaim that good news by the way we interact with our family – in the ways in which we demonstrate respect, in our words, in our spontaneous acts of kindness.

We proclaim the good news in the ways in which we are at work: treating

co-workers with respect, even – and maybe especially – when they are not the easiest people to get along with. We proclaim the good news by being fair in business dealings, by being a responsible worker.

We proclaim the good news by the way in which we act in school. By being patient with students, by respecting our teacher, by respecting fellow students, once again, by being responsible as an adult or students in the school. We proclaim the good news in every word and deed.

We are always proclaiming the good news wherever we are: when we are out driving, shopping, in our family gatherings, associating with our neighbors.

V. Such actions help us to guard against becoming smug and self-assured of salvation.

It gets us out of forming a narrow mind set and we begin to think and act like God: welcoming and inviting all people to share in God's gift of salvation.

VI. This week – what is one way you and I can share the Good News? How do we change our words? How do we act differently? In what way can you and I be the face and the words and the heart of Christ?

VII. As a community, we share now in this Eucharist. Our celebration of this sacrament is itself a sharing in the Good News. May it empower us to go out and share it with others.