

## STRIVE

*We find ourselves on the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, and we hear, through the Gospel of Luke, how Jesus continues on his way to Jerusalem, where the culminating moment of his mission will arrive: to give his life as a ransom for all.*

*However, along the way, someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that only a few are saved?"*

*And Jesus, recognizing that it is an idle question, does not answer directly, but instead makes an exhortation: strive to enter through the narrow gate.*

*These words of Jesus seem contrary to what the modern world presents to us, where special attention is placed on convenience, comfort, and having a good time, always with minimal effort.*

*But Jesus indicates that this will not be possible to be saved. Therefore, St Augustine affirmed, "God, who created you without you, will not save you without you."*

*The Lord always respects our freedom, and in many moments He knocks on the door of our hearts to make His word known to us, inviting us to continue His mission. He waits patiently for someone to respond.*

*Therefore, we must not deceive ourselves; it is not enough to attend Mass on Sundays; the commitment is to put into practice what we hear in the celebration of the Eucharist, and what we celebrate is part of our faith.*

*In other words, Jesus invites us to accompany Him on the journey to Jerusalem, where He will embrace the Cross, and we too, through the Cross of effort and perseverance, will be able to achieve salvation.*

*We are all invited to enter through that narrow door; however, it will depend on each of us how much willingness there is in our hearts to strive and allow God's grace to act in us.*

*In the culture of ease, there is no room for salvation. Let us ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit to be constant and steadfast in our faith.*