

# Dear Padre,

## I have some views that differ from the Church's stance. Must all my beliefs align with the Church?

**T**he answer to this question is difficult without knowing your specific views. Generally speaking, Catholics affirm a deposit of faith that the Church has received and is bound to preserve. This includes the public revelation of God manifest in the incarnate Word of God (Jesus Christ)



and preserved in the sacred Scriptures and apostolic Tradition. This deposit of faith ended with the death of the last apostle.

The deposit of faith entrusted to the Church is not simply a set of propositional truths, but is bound up in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of God's revelation

to humanity. Catholics commonly agree on certain teachings central to the deposit of faith and taught by Church authority, including the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the role of the sacraments, and creeds formulated by ancient councils. (Catholics are not required to believe in many of the private revelations and visions that have accumulated over the centuries.)

Since the mid-1800s, theologians and Church leaders have debated the infallible nature of documents issued by popes and the Vatican and the extent to which they're binding on Catholics. All agree, however, that these documents should be given the utmost consideration. Those who disagree with the Church on faith or moral issues should investigate the reasons for specific teachings. When they realize that God's laws and moral teachings begin with the dignity of the person, they may conform their views to God's truth which the Church wishes to convey and uphold.

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### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*Let us think now...in silence, of the things that we have inside us which prevent us from entering the [narrow] door: my pride, my arrogance, my sins. Then, let us think of the other door, the one opened wide by the mercy of God who awaits us on the other side to grant us forgiveness.*

ANGELUS, AUGUST 21, 2016



## Our Parish Community

August 21, 2022

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Is 66:18-21

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Lk 13:22-30

## Membership Is Not Enough

**J**ust because you belong to a tennis club does not mean you can play tennis. This might sound like a ridiculous statement. Still, it is important to acknowledge that joining a group and paying dues does not mean that you are an active member. Something similar unfolds in the story that Jesus tells in today's Gospel passage. The people who have been locked out claim to be known by the householder: "We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets" (Luke 13:26). That may have been true, but evidently it was not enough. As he tells this story, Jesus is making a point for the sake of his listeners: "Enjoying my company and listening to me is not enough." Then what is enough?

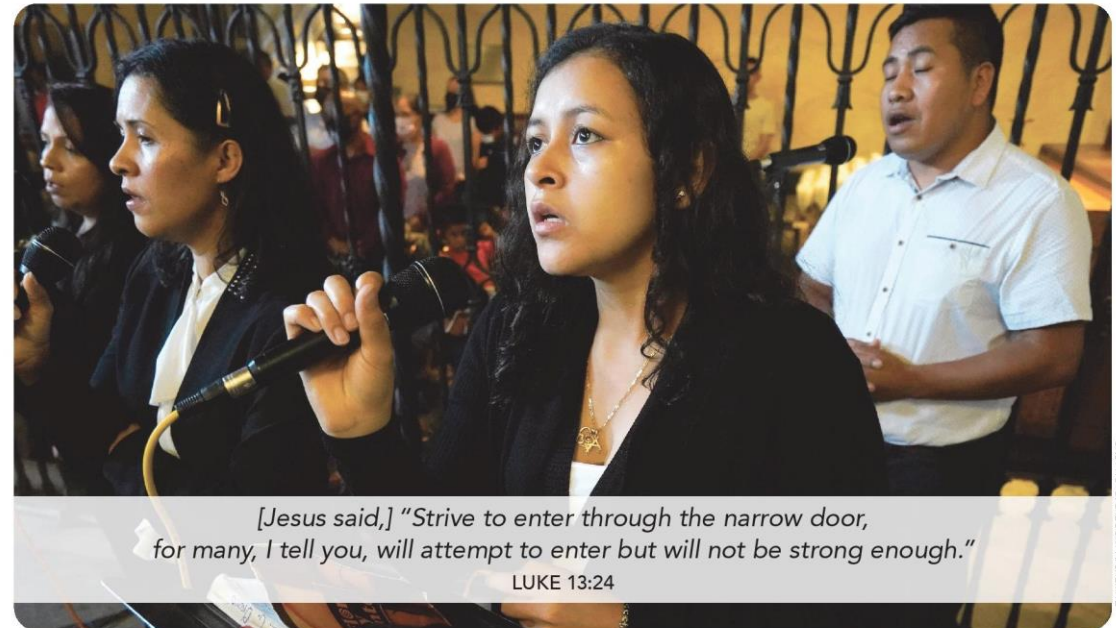
Returning to tennis, it is not enough to join a club

or even to read a book about tennis. You must play it. For many of us, this would mean a lifelong attempt at trying to learn and perfect your game. But then, that is why one joins a tennis club. Christianity is a way of life; you must live it. This is not to say that doctrines and rituals are unimportant. They are very important, but they are important because they inform and then celebrate the Christian life we live. Here too it might take a lifetime to learn being a Christian. But then that is why one is a member of the Church—an active member.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ Find out about parish resources that can help you to live a more fully Christian life.
- ★ Spend a few minutes reflecting on today's responsorial Psalm 117:1, 2.



[Jesus said,] "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

LUKE 13:24

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