

Sunday, April 30, 2023
4th Sunday of Easter

In the Gospel this weekend Jesus calls himself "the Gate". John goes on to say: "Whoever enters through me will be saved and....find pasture". Jesus wants all to enter "the Gate" i.e. his love. Unfortunately there are some who try and clog the gate. They just put obstacles in front of the others to interfere with the joy that Jesus came to bring. As John says: "I came so that they may have life and have it abundantly." Some of those "thieves and robbers" are in our Missouri government and legislature. The Attorney General and many Republicans (if not all) are playing politics with some of Jesus' sheep i.e. transgender persons. They are using trans people as political pawns and robbing them of needed medical attention that brings them "life".

My cousin is a trans person and so, besides being Biblical, this is personal for me. The suicide rate and the number persons with serious depression disorders are off the charts in the community who are seeking transition. Gender is not just black or white (boy or girl)! There is a gender spectrum. Our government officials and our hierarchy need to catch up to the latest in science and psychology. I am not a biologist nor a psychologist but I am a disciple of Jesus, and the Gate should be open to all so that folks can "have life and have it more abundantly".

One of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching is "Solidarity". It is important that the Body of Christ be one and trans persons seem to be being push farther to the margins of society and out of the institutional church. Let us be people of acceptance then there will be hope for the trans community. Let us stand with our sisters and brothers who need life saving medical care.

Fr. Jack (he/him)