



Blessed Bartholomew of Vicenza (1200-1271) at 20 entered the Dominicans, and as a young priest founded a military order to keep civil peace in towns throughout Italy. He used also his skills as a preacher to challenge the heresies of his day. During his years as bishop in Cyprus, Bartholomew befriended King Louis IX of France.

First Reading: (Rom 8:26-30) The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Ps 12:4-6

R./ As for me, I trust, O Lord, in your merciful love.

Gospel: (Lk 13:22-30) Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching,

and journeying toward Jerusalem. And some one said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us.' He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!' There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

REFLECTION

The metaphor of the narrow door is a striking one as it invites each of us to make a personal choice in our life. Someone asks Jesus whether those who are saved be few. Instead of giving a one word answer as 'yes' or 'no' Jesus tells him to strive to enter through the narrow door. In front of a narrow door one has to make a personal decision. One has to personally strive to enter into it. **It is not by being in the group or by mere chance or luck one can hope to be on the other side of the narrow door.** It is not by being part of a group or a religious sect that we enter into the kingdom of God but rather by one's personal commitment. Jesus tells us that we may find many others entering into the kingdom because they chose the narrow door.