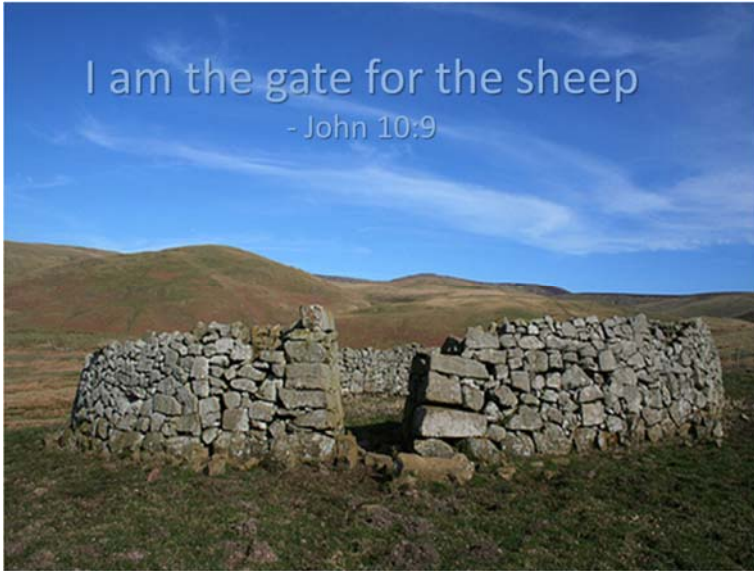


Dear Brothers and Sisters



“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”

I was once on a hiking holiday on the beautiful French island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea; it is the birthplace of Napoleon. A local man there explained the meaning of the sheepfolds, as seen in the

picture above. The stone wall has an opening, but no door or gate. The shepherd lay across the opening, he was the ‘door’, protecting the flock from predators.

The only way in or out was literally through the shepherd: “I am the gate for the sheep.” We, each one of us, are the sheep of the flock. Christ is the door, the means through which we have access to one another. Between us and the other is Christ.

If we do not relate to one another through Christ, we are literally thieves, robbers or hirelings. If our relationships do not take into account the presence of Christ, they will always lack truth, they will be deficient.

We can live this time of the pandemic in one of two ways. We can live it with Christ or without Him. Without Him we sink into fear and panic, fed by a 24/7 news cycle and hysteria of social media. On the other hand, if Christ is our shepherd, our door, if everything is mediated through him, we are secure and unafraid.

It is possible to be isolated alone, because Christ is with you. It is possible to live for weeks on end with the same family members, because Christ is the intermediary in every conversation and interaction.

It is possible to experience upheaval in our daily life: work, school, graduation, prom, baseball... because with Him, we lack nothing.

Fr. Sean