

For Christ's Sake – Push the Button! (part 2)



As she was leaving after 8:00 a.m. Mass, she pushed the \$5 bill into my hand and said, “Gerry, replace the battery. And, I am praying for you and your friend, Pakie, as you go through all of this. Let the door open up!” — Thank you, Sister! I appreciate that!

I replaced the battery, pushed the button, and the door opened. It really works!

This reminded me of the constant Truth — We have got to open the door. Jesus is not going to push His way into our lives. He will prompt us and encourage us. He will invite and meet us. But, one thing He won't do is force us!

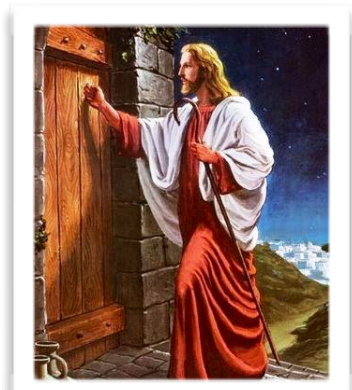
There was a Holy Card showing this Truth that appeared a great deal when I was growing up, but I don't see it much today. It is a picture of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, standing knocking at the door. When you look carefully at the door, there is no door latch or handle on the outside.

The intimation is clear — Jesus is knocking, but the latch is on the inside. I have to let Him in! It is my decision.....my choice.

We actually have a rendition of this image hanging in one of our Atriums. We are helping our children understand this from an early age. What a difference it can make in one's life!

The Holy Card often included a quote from the Book of Revelation:

“Look, I am standing at the door knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in and share his meal, side by side with him.” (Rev 3:20)



What a great thought — my Lord and Savior wants to share my life with me, and be engaged in every aspect of my life. But, I have got to let Him.

Why don't I push the button?

Is it simply fear?

(continued on back)

A group of our Parish Family is currently studying C.S. Lewis' book, Mere Christianity. The reason they chose this text is primarily because it came up frequently in the context of ChristLife. Mere Christianity is one of the most influential books on Christianity in the whole 20th Century, and its author is one of the most influential Christians of the same period. This work is a classic in the realm of Christianity and the importance of experiencing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I find what Lewis is saying also means, "**Push the Button. Make it Happen.**"

Sitting in Church every Sunday ain't going to get it! Sadly, we have run with that illusion in the Church for too long — "Just show up!" It hasn't worked! It doesn't work! It is like sitting in front of a closed door being afraid, maybe even terrified, to open it.

FEAR NOT — IT IS HIM!

The final paragraph of C.S. Lewis' work captures it so well:

"But there must be a real giving up of the self. You must throw it away "blindly" so to speak. Christ will indeed give you a real personality: but you must not go to Him for the sake of that. As long as your own personality is what you are bothering about you are not going to Him at all. The very first step is to try to forget about the self altogether. Your real, new self (which is Christ's and also yours, and yours just because it is His) will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him. Does that sound strange? The same principle holds, you know, for more everyday matters. Even in social life, you will never make a good impression on other people until you stop thinking about what sort of impression you are making. Even in literature and art, no man who bothers about originality will ever be original: whereas if you simply try to tell the truth (without caring twopence how often it has been told before) you will, nine times out of ten, become original without ever having noticed it. The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

October 8, 2017

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions — October 9th ~ 15th

Monday @ 7:30 am — Kathleen Ziemanski (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Henry Ziemanski (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Sisters in Faith (Sp Int)
Friday @ 7:30 am — William Longsword (RIP)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Dr. George Michas (Sp Int)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Kenneth Mitchell (RIP)

Prayer Requests

Special Intentions: Pat Owen
Matteo Robitaille, nephew of Josee Gavin
Mickey Gavin, stepson of Josee Gavin
Rest of the Soul: Santa Crout
Suzanne Landry, aunt of Jennifer Henry
Ruth Batschelet, aunt of Kathy Gieger
Warren Doiron, uncle of William Carollo
Jim Welch, father of Tonya Sweeney

Altar Flowers this week

In loving memory of Bill Trout
Donated by: Roni Trout

Altar Flowers this week

In Memory of Joan McGraw, mother
Donated by: Cathy & Patrick Pipitone