

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024: Ez 17:22-24 | Ps 92:2-3,13-16 |
2 Cor 5:6-10 | Mk 4:26-34

Pray: Good and gracious God, help me to sow seeds of love, hope, and trust in You and to be patient as You help them grow, bear fruit, and multiply in your Kingdom. Amen.

We plant, but God's grace makes seeds grow.

Jesus often used simple yet profound parables and stories in His teachings about the Kingdom of God. He likened the growth of tiny seeds to the patience and trust required in our spiritual journey. This message resonates with us today, reminding us that even the smallest acts of faith can lead to incredible spiritual growth...in ourselves and others.

In our daily lives, we can take comfort in the fact that the Holy Spirit, our divine Gardener, works wonders with the seeds of faith we sow. When we do our part and leave the rest to God, the Holy Spirit grows miracles around us. We must trust the supernatural work of God to take our efforts and turn them into good. Our part involves planting seeds of faith through our steady prayers, trusting in God's Holy Will through our small and large actions of obedience, and generously sharing the Gospel of Christ with others through our words and loving deeds. This is what Jesus meant by building the Kingdom of God. Just as one cannot stand in front of a flower garden and notice it growing moment-by-moment from the seeds we plant, we know that if we keep watering and weeding, God will provide everything else and, in good time (God's perfect timing), the garden of our lives will blossom and be beautiful.

Through our Baptism, we are not just followers but active participants in building up the Kingdom of God.



This involves sharing the Gospel and our faith in Jesus daily. The seeds we plant are often little things like

mentioning prayer and thankfulness to God when speaking with family and friends. It might be the little acts of kindness we show others when they need help or a lift. Our joy and hope in Christ are seen in our steadfast commitment to attending Mass and living a sacramental life even when life becomes busy and challenging. These seemingly small actions are the seeds that, with the grace of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, can grow into a flourishing Kingdom of God in our lives and communities.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How are you planting seeds of faith in your family, community of friends and acquaintances, and the larger world? How are you tending to the seeds of faith you are planting in others?
- † Who planted and tended to the seeds of faith in you, and was patience needed for you to grow?
- † As weeds can crowd out a garden and stunt growth, what must we work to weed out of our lives and society to help the Kingdom of God grow in holiness?
- † How does trusting in the potential of God's grace to grow the seeds of faith we plant help us in ministry?