

BULLETIN: 15 Ord A 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Rosary at Holy Rosary to honor Our Lady of Fatima: 5:30 PM August 13, September 13, and October 13. Please join us! It is also fertile ground for learning how to pray the rosary.
2. Archbishop Paul Etienne will celebrate mass with us Thursday August 3 at 11:00 AM at Saint Peter the Fisherman, Saturday August 5th at noon at Saint Theresa, and Sunday August 6 at 10:00 AM at Holy Rosary.
3. My garden is growing, radishes, beets, carrots, and squash. Be sure to tend all the gardens in your life. (see homily below)
4. Also, a parishioner asked me to please keep in your prayers Ezio Juan, a baby who passed away last week, and all his family members.

HOMILY

ATTENDING MASS

Seed in Path: Go to Mass, understand the message, but quickly forget about it.

Seed in Rocks: Go to Mass to make your spouse happy. Do not hear the message or try to understand it.

Seed in Thorns: Go to Mass, hear the message, other priorities get in the way of putting God's word into action.

Seed on Fertile Soil: Go to mass, hear the message, understand the message, and put into practice in your daily life all you have learned.

HOW TO MAKE FERTILE GROUND

To make fertile ground, tend the gardens in your life. When the seeds we receive from mass fall on fertile soil, we grow the Kingdom of God. Here are several gardens that need tending:

1. Garden of body: exercise, healthy eating, physical check ups?

2. Garden of family/friends: prioritize spending time with them, do you pray for them? are there unresolved issues?
3. Garden of environment: To you conserve energy? Waste food?
4. Garden of decisions: Do you bring God into your decision making?
5. Garden of emotions: Do you take time off? Is there a particular emotion you want to understand better? Do you need counseling.
6. Garden of technology: Are you being called to learn more about technology? Do your emails enhance relationships, or detract from them?
7. Garden of history: Do you reflect where you have experienced Christ daily?
8. Garden of mind: Have you taken a class lately? Have you considered returning to school for a degree?
9. Garden of Arts: Do you notice the art around you? Do you want to spend more time developing an artistic talent?
10. Garden of money: Are you too attached to possessions?
11. Garden of the soul: Do you make retreats to spend more time with God? Do you use prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to cultivate your relationship with God?

SUCCESS/FAILURE RATE

The first three steps of the parable fail, the last one succeeds. There is a 25 percent success rate. Here are the four spiritual steps: We fail, we listen, we learn, and we grow. There are four seeds and one out of every seed grows.

PERSONAL EXAMPLE

My garden of family and friends has always needed tending. I tried relating to my mom, it didn't work (seed didn't grow). I tried helping my brother with his alcohol problems, it didn't work. I prayed that some family members would become Catholic, it didn't work. I kept trying. I kept praying. Finally, I was able to bear much fruit. The relationship with my mom became great, my brother is in recovery, and my niece married a catholic.

MESSAGE

The message today is clear: Let these seeds you receive from Mass fall on fertile ground. If you fail to tend your gardens, don't give up. Keep trying! The Lord asks us to try, not necessarily succeed. **Mother Theresa said, "Jesus does not ask us to be successful, but to be faithful."**

CONCLUSION

Resurrect those poor relationships; try again to make time for more prayer; try again to spend more time with your family. Tend your gardens. When seeds fall on fertile ground, they will bear much fruit (525 Words).

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant

We turn to God in prayer for our needs and the needs of our world.

Deacon/Lector

We pray for the Church: may we receive God's love in our hearts and offer it as God's gift to all we meet, we pray to the Lord.

We pray for our world: that people may not reject God but find ways of remaining open to God's love and goodness in their lives, we pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who are weighed down by uncertainty and doubt. May they find new confidence as they are touched by the kindness and truth in others, we pray to the Lord.

We pray for the sick and housebound members of our community. May they meet Christ in his goodness in their family and friends, we pray to the Lord.

For those of our community who have died (especially): and for comfort to those who mourn the loss of a loved one, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our families, our community, our country, and the world....., We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

Hear our petitions, O God, and answer our prayers, we ask this through Christ our Lord.

READINGS

Isaiah 55:10-11

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, Giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats. So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Romans 8:18-23

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Matthew 13:1-23

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.' Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: 'You shall indeed hear but not understand you shall

indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.' "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."