

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for today remind us that the soul must be cultivated like the soil for our crops! Bad soil, bad crops! In the first reading, God's word tells us that like the rain falls to nourish the crops in the ground; so to, God's Word falls upon us, and His Word is meant to help us to grow and flourish- that is the plan of God, unless we obstruct it! If the results of growth are nil or poor, that is not God's fault- He has given everything we need. It is our fault, and therefore, we must use all of the tools that God has given us to weed, fertilize and nourish the growth!

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that God has created this entire world, indeed the entire cosmos to this end and purpose: for that growth within us to take place! Sin did not just mess up agriculture, so that the growth that God planned from the beginning was frustrated; rather, it messed up the designs of the Creation itself, by diverting it from its original purpose. However, although sin, through the flesh, the world and the devil, I try to frustrate the Original Plan of God, although sin has tried to frustrate the glorious harvest that God seeks, the Word of God has entered into our human existence; the Divine Word has indeed fallen down from the Heavens, and has become a creature like us in all things except sin! By the Divine Word made Flesh, Jesus Christ, God in the Flesh now shows us and empowers us to live out our original purpose, in order to fulfill His glorious plan.

This is the meaning of the Gospel teaching in the parable of the Sower and the seed. The seed being sown, is the Divine Word made Flesh- Jesus, always seeking to make its way into a soul. Jesus teaches us the obstacles which frustrate the bearing of the Good Seed. He teaches us that there is a wholesale difference between hearing and listening! Every parent and every wife already knows this difference! It is our burden and our hard-work to cultivate, nurture, and water the good soil that God has provided, in order to receive this Good Seed, that He is! This requires great effort on our parts; and, if we don't do this, then the seed will simply stay on the surface of our lives, and the devil will come and snatch it away! The devil is always seeking to convince us to remain shallow, superficial, and lose ourselves in the obstacles and pleasures of this world!

The Good News is that the Living Word, Jesus, wants to be with, and wants us to succeed, and He is always waiting for us to respond, wherein He will make the growth flourish. But, this takes our diligence, our self-sacrifice, our constant prayer, especially the Rosary, and our faithful and constant use of the means He has given us, namely, the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist! If we do our part, believe me- believe Jesus, He will do His part!