

Whoever has ears ought to Hear!

Fifteenth Sunday
of Ordinary Time

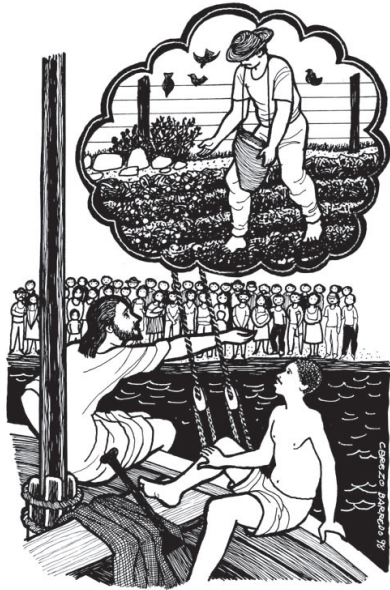


San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

July 16, 2017 a

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

When we are trying to explain something important to another, we choose our words carefully, speak directly and clearly, and pause often to make sure our hearer is tracking with us. Jesus always speaks something important: he is opening our eyes and ears to see and hear the growth and Life he offers us. But sometimes it seems he does not speak very clearly or directly. He speaks of the mystery of God's kingdom, of coming to salvation, in parables and leaves us multiple layers of rich seeds to nurture and bring to fruitfulness.



In today's Gospel, both in the parable itself and in Jesus' explanation of it, he indicates that seeds falling on rich soil do not all produce the same abundance—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundredfold. God cares less about quantity produced and more about growth and Life coming to fruition. As we take in God's word with understanding hearts and come to conversion and receive healing, God actually gives us more than even a hundredfold. God gives us fullness of Life forever.

Words to reflect upon: Jesus leaves us multiple layers of rich seeds to nurture and bring to fruitfulness.

**"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish
the light of a single candle."**

— St. Francis of Assisi

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Incarnation, Suffering, Death and Resurrection
of Jesus Christ and our Participation In It

As people accustomed to judging success by quantity, today's parable challenges us in an entirely different direction. Our journey to salvation is not measured by the amount of fruit we produce as followers of Jesus, but by the quality of seeing, hearing and understanding God's word and communicating that to others by the goodness of our lives. The more we grow toward not measuring our lives by quantity, but by the quality of the good we do for others and the care and respect with which we treat others, the witness to the Good News of salvation we give by the very way we live increases. We want to receive God's word in the rich soil of our understanding hearts, nurture it by Gospel living and rejoice in the abundance of Life God offers us.

**Words to reflect upon: journey to salvation,
measuring our lives not by quantity but by
quality;**

Let gratitude be the beat of our heart...
Let resolve flow in our veins...
Let compassion be our hands...
Let wisdom be our feet...
Let love be our eyes...
Let community be our body warmth...
Let us remember on drear distant days
We are the body of God!

—Simone Campbell OSB

Pray without Ceasing!

Let us lift our hearts in prayer to God as we pray for:

The Sick: Fr. Vega and family, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, and Don Maziarz.

Families who are enjoying time together during the summer, and for families suffering tragedies such as the loss of a child or of their home as the victims of the Grenfell apartments fire in London.

Peace—that God will open the hearts and minds of all of today's warring factions, instilling thoughts of forgiveness, tolerance and generosity that will lead them to a spirit of brotherhood and non-violence.



LITURGY III

Liturgy is the public work and public prayer of the whole community. Liturgy is not private prayer of isolated individuals. Every liturgical rite is by its very nature communal -- it involves the entire Church. To better understand this, let's start by looking at

THE ASSEMBLY

Adapted from materials from [America Magazine](#)

This December it will be 53 years since the Second Vatican Council published its first document, the Constitution On The Sacred Liturgy (CSL) calling the Church to both a liturgical reform and to a deeper understanding of what the Church does when celebrating the liturgy.



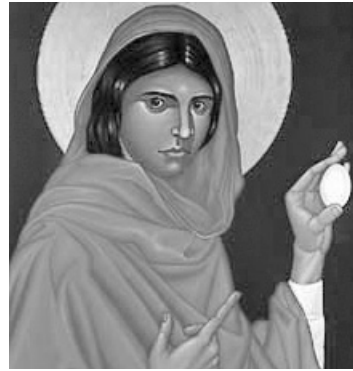
Can you remember how Mass was celebrated fifty-three years ago? The priest said the Mass with his back to the congregation on an altar located at the back wall of the sanctuary. He said it in Latin, which most people did not understand, so if they paid attention to the prayers at all, they followed a translation in their missal. Or they may have said the rosary of some other prayers which had nothing to do with the prayers the priest said. If there was singing at Mass, it was usually done by a choir hidden up in a loft.

After the CSL things were a lot different. Catholics were challenged to celebrate the liturgy in their own language, and to have the priest face the people at an altar which was moved much closer to them. Singing was for everybody, and the songs were in their own language with music more like other music people used.

Above all, the document said that the liturgy belongs to the people in the assembly and this assembly had a duty and a right to a **“full, active, and conscious participation”** in the liturgy. These are wonderfully liberating and challenging words calling people to WAKE UP! and SEE all the privileges and responsibilities that are theirs through baptism.

But just who is this assembly and how are they to have a full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy? **The assembly is us! The people of God!** We are all called to CELEBRATE this new understanding of the mass and its role in our lives. We are called to allow the JOY OF THE EUCHARIST to fill our souls, our spirit and our very bodies and to create a true celebration of our faith. So WE OPEN OUR MOUTHS and we pray together in a loud voice! We sing out (even if we can't carry a tune)! We smile at our neighbors in the pew. We teach our children to do the same. This is the ministry we all belong to, **the MINISTRY OF THE ASSEMBLY.**

Next Saturday, July 22, is the feast day of **SAINT MARY OF MAGDALA.** John's gospel names her as the first to discover the empty tomb and shows the Risen Christ



sending her to announce the Good News of his resurrection to the other disciples. This prompted early church Fathers to name her “the Apostle to the Apostles”.

Far from the false, distorted images of “the Magdalene” promoted through the ages, modern biblical scholars have rightly restored our understanding of Mary of Magdala as an important disciple and early Christian leader. Now she has become the same inspiring role model for twenty-first century disciples that she was for first century Christians. Joan Chittister OSB has called Mary of Nazareth and Mary of Magdala “models of the spirituality of the long haul” for us all.

**MARY OF MAGDALA,
Woman/Witness, Woman/Friend, PRAY FOR US!**

The One Who Keeps Vigil With No Candle

As still as a silent, breathless dusk,
As calm as a dove settling into night,
You need no candle to vigil with us
Through the darkness of problems
And the grey months of heartache.
In days and years of extended illness
And in situations with no resolutions,
You are an attentive eagle on her nest
Watching like a mother with her children,
Encouraging us to not fear the unseen.
Today: I vigil with the One who vigils with me.

No one comes out of struggle, out of suffering, the same kind of person they were when they went in. It's possible, of course, to come out worse than we were when we went into the throes of pain. Struggle can turn to sour in us, of course. But it is equally possible, if we choose to reflect on it, to come out stronger and wiser than we were when it began.



What is not possible, however, is to stay the same.

—from [Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope](#) by Joan Chittister