FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: JULY 12, 2020

A favorite pastime of mine is birdwatching. I have several feeders outside the front window of the rectory. The birds come and go at their own volition. When it is raining, they seem to go crazy and eat like there’s no tomorrow. Sometimes I find myself doing the same! Ha! The birds will clean out my feeders within a few days typically. I’ve even seen it disappear the same day!! A couple of weeks ago, I noticed something different about the front yard; the grass had changed slightly under the feeder. To my surprise, the safflower seeds that the birds had haphazardly thrown from the feeder had begun to germinate under the feeder. (a couple of seeds even began to grow in the feeder itself!) I went out to see how much damage I had done; fearing the worst and the possible headlines, “Pastor runs associate out of town on a rail due to yard mismanagement.” There were sprouts everywhere… uh oh…. I decided to see if a little elbow grease (and God’s grace) would do the trick. To my surprise, the tall sprouts yanked up with ease. The little safflower sprouts grew tall quickly, but there was virtually no depth to the roots. I began to pull more and more. Then I took the rake to it. Problem solved! Pastor appeased! Crisis averted and my job security granted. 😊

The reason I share this story with you is that I could help but think of safflower sprouts in the grass when I read the Gospel for this weekend. The familiar parable of the Sower. What our Lord is desiring to teach us is that our hearts must be open to receiving Him! The parable of the Sower shows four possible outcomes when presented with the Word (God, Himself).

- First there is a barrier of non-understanding – nothing can penetrate… what good was planted gets eaten up.
- Second, there are cracks, and some things grow, but there is not enough openness of heart for true sustenance; for the Word to “take root.”
- Thirdly, there is an open heart, but it is not only open to the Word, it lets the weed of the world grow in the heart as well. The two cannot coincide. This lack of deep faith allows the concerns of the world to choke the fruit that would be borne by the Word.
- Lastly, a heart that is truly receptive to the Word of God. It sinks deep and is cultivated well. Roots grow wide and deep and anchor one’s soul to the Cross. These souls yield 30, 60, and 100 fold.

Which one do you want to be? May we all have open hearts, that the Word may sink deep into our lives, grow deep roots and bear much fruit. ~Fr. Tim

<table>
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<th>2020 Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pledged</td>
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Thank you to my family and friends for the flowers, gifts, cards, calls, food, visits and the transportation to and from my Dr. Appointments during the recovery time from my broken ankle. You have been a blessing during this very stressful time. Thank you for being there for me. May God bless you all. My sincere gratitude, Mary Lou Voigt.

Holy Spirit-Confession Schedule
- Saturday 4:00 P.M.- 5:00 P.M.
- Or by appointment.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Margaret Mary #2453 congratulate our four local students that placed at the state level for the Education Contest.
2nd Place, Division 1 Art-Karina Driedger
2nd Pace, Division 2 Art-Emma Heg
2nd Place, Division 1 Computer Art-Bree Rockwell
3rd Place, Division 2 Computer Art-Hunter Magee

At Holy Spirit, we are collecting a specific Item of the month that will be donated to the food pantries. Our item for July is any Hamburger Helper. You can place your non-perishable donations in the bin by the office door. The Mitchell Area Food Pantry has a new address. The new address is 812 N Rowley, Suite C.
No Thursday Adoration Until Further Notice.