

July 23, 2025

Daily Reflections



FEAST DAY OF SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Saint Bridget (1304-374)

Wife, Mother, Religious, Abbess, Patron Saint of Sweden

Bridget's father was the governor of the largest province in Sweden; he passed on his love of justice to his daughter, who was supported by a solid education. Typical of the times, her father arranged a marriage for her -- but it was better than most arranged marriages. She and her husband loved and supported each other. Bridget thrived as wife and mother of 8 children. Her faith was clearly expressed as she reached out to the poor and needy. She personally ministered to the sick in a hospital she had built on her estate. After her husband died, she gave away her possessions and moved into a monastery. Strengthened by her prayer life, she began speaking out against the wrongs she witnessed in her society. Through her letters to popes, cardinals and political rulers, she urged them to practice mercy and justice.

Today's Gospel

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 thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

MATTHEW 13:1-9



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Reflection

Matthew's attention moves from debates with the religious leaders to a large crowd gathering to hear Jesus' teachings. This particular teaching highlights the sower, usually thought to represent God or Jesus, and the seed pointing to the word of God. Notably the sower indiscriminately sows the seed on every kind of ground, thus offering the divine word to everyone, no matter what their potential for accepting it. Jesus' parable clearly widens God's invitation to all. In Bridget's life we see a witness to this all-inclusive God.

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- What are the specific ways – in thought and/or action – that I demonstrate God's inclusivity? What could I do/say today that would show the breadth of our Creator's love for creation?
 - What part of Bridget's life inspires my living today? In what ways might she companion me?
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