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Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

SOWING GENEROUSLY

By Lucy Dominguez

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.”*

Reflection

This past year, I was invited to learn about the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Through this year-long program, I realized that this invitation is not just something I do from 8:00 to 5:00; it's embracing a way of being that permeates every aspect of my life. One simple practice I've adopted is acknowledging drivers who stop for me at crosswalks during my daily walks. I look at them, smile, wave, and say, "Thank you." Most people smile and wave back; in that moment, there is a connection, a unity; we are one. This small interaction fills me with grace and joy, carrying the memory of their smiles with me.

This practice echoes the Parable of the Sower. Jesus tells of a sower scattering seeds that fall on different soil types, producing different results. Birds eat some seeds, some wither on rocky ground, and thorns choke some, but some fall on rich soil and produce abundant fruit. This parable reassures us that God's kingdom is generously sown with potential for life and growth. Even when some efforts seem to fail, much still thrives. It also reminds us that many seeds a farmer sows never reach maturity, so to grow anything, it is necessary to sow generously.

The parable reminds us that God provides abundantly, even feeding the birds of the air with the sower's grain. In the parable, Jesus invites us to imitate God's generosity. We are invited to remember those in need, to share our bounty, to love faithfully, to forgive freely, to give more, to invest in the future we may not see, to accept failures, and to persist in our efforts.

When our efforts seem fruitless, the parable of the sower encourages us to keep sowing. Just as my small acts of gratitude at the crosswalk create moments of connection, our generous acts contribute to a greater abundance, even if they seem small or insignificant. Something will get through. Something will grow. In this way, we live out the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, embracing a way of being that fosters unity and faith in the ever-present potential for new life.



A Person Holding A Green Plant

Photo by Akil Mazumder

For Pondering

- How can you incorporate small acts of kindness and gratitude into your daily routine to foster a sense of connection and unity with others?
- How can you practice generosity, even when facing challenges or setbacks?
- How can the message of the Parable of the Sower inspire you to continue sowing seeds of love and faith, trusting that something will take root and grow despite uncertainties?

For Prayer

Prayer for Generosity

*Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest.
To labor and not to seek reward,*

Expect that of knowing that I do your will.

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

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