

Homily for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
Theme: The Tremendous Power of a Seed!

Everything in life starts with a seed.

One day a boy found himself in the backyard of his home enjoying a juicy mango, one of his favourite fruits. After eating the delicious mango, he threw away the seed in the yard without paying attention to it. To his surprise, many days later, when he returned to the place where he had thrown the seed, instead of a seed he now found a mango plant. The seed had turned into a little tree with the potential of producing many other mangoes. This made him think about the mysterious power that a seed holds. A small seed planted in fertile soil will produce immeasurable results. A seed has transforming power.

By use of an allegory of the tree, in the first reading of today (Ezekiel 17:22-24), the prophet Ezekiel gives a promise of hope to the Jews in exile. He announces to them that God will allow a new creation; God will open up a new chapter for them, over the ruins of Israel. From the seed of faith that has taken root in them, God will make anew a nation for himself.

In the Gospel reading of today (Mark 4:26-34), Jesus likens the kingdom of God - the reign of God, the place where God is ... to a mustard seed that with the requisite conditions grows into a big tree. From the seed that is deemed weak, a strong tree comes to be. From the seed that is presumably useless, something useful emerges. From a seed that is small and insignificant, a great tree is born! And this is precisely the mysterious and tremendous power that a seed, small or big as it may be, holds.

Dare to think of your faith as being the seed ... think of the family as being such a seed ... think of the seeds of education ... think of the seeds of morality among the youth ... think of the words that you utter as being the seeds ... and table this concern at the base of your heart: Are they capable of producing immeasurable results? Are the seeds kept under favorable conditions to produce great "trees" for generations to come?

As Saint Paul notes in the second reading of today (2 Corinthians 5:6-10), that the time for judgment is beckoning, let us make use of the God-given "mustard seeds" to the best of our ability, and so bring forth great trees for succeeding generations. God does not expect us to do everything. He only expects us to do something - to cast the seed!

May we take it to heart that in the dictionary of God, the word "impossible" never exists!
Cast the seed, do whatever you can and with the anointing of God allow the seed to show forth its tremendous power!

May the prayers of the ever Blessed Virgin strengthen us in this noble endeavor.