

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 13th 2021

Introduction

Two common phrases we hear today are:

1) "THE BIGGER THE BETTER."

AND

2) "THE MORE THE MERRIER."

Many corporations want to be the largest in their industry.

--- People want to live in the biggest house, --- drive the biggest car --- and belong to the biggest church.

"The bigger the better!" ... "The more the merrier".

Today's Gospel reading, --- by giving us two parables, --- presents us with a sharp contrast to that secular way of thinking of ours. The two parables compare the reign of God to seeds.

In the first parable, --- the seed grows slowly day by day

In the second parable, --- about the mustard seeds --- the seeds are small but grow large enough to give shelter and shade.

Both of these parables are about big results , ... emerging from small beginnings .

A few bags of grain can produce a harvest large enough to fill a silo. --- A tiny mustard seed can become home for the birds of the air.

These agricultural images are not simply about farming only but about the reign of God. They BOTH –give us a word of caution. --- We should not identify SIZE with SIGNIFICANCE. --- Bigger is not necessarily better. --- More is not necessarily merrier. We all know how a small parish church can lose something vital when it becomes a mammoth congregation. --- A huge organization is not necessarily a more effective one. --- We often find quality products in smaller businesses.

MINORITIES

Similarly, a majority does not necessarily decide what is right. --- More often than not, --- MINORITIES --- have been the great “CHANGE AGENTS” and carriers of “TRUTH” for the rest of us society. --- Renewal and revival have come through ---“MINORITIES”.

Here are some examples : 1) The abolition of SLAVERY... 2) The securing of CIVIL RIGHTS---3) RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE... 4) CARE for the ENVIRONMENT... 5) POLITICAL REFORM... and 6)OUR OWN AMERICAN REVOLUTION --- have not happened through great numbers of people but through small dynamic and committed minority .

We should not, therefore, confuse size and significance .The church with the most members is not necessarily most effective .In fact size can make community complacent ...fat... lethargic. The renewal and revival that our world need will come from a minority filled with fire spiritual muscle and truth. They are the future ! Numbers can sometimes be a curse rather than a blessing. It is not the number of people that claim the name "CHRISTIAN" that will change the world, but the intensity they live their faith .The faith that makes a difference is not the one that grows outwards --- but the one that grows within .

When you look at the beautiful world around us this summer, I call to mind the magnificent truth that the growth I see began with small seeds that grow slowly over the years .The same is true of our Church life and spiritual life. My spiritual vitality begins with a trickle of water at my BAPTISM .It grows with a wafer of bread in HOLY COMMUNION and a smudge of consecrated oil at CONFIRMATION. Slowly through the graces planted through those sacraments can grow into a heroic and life-changing holiness that profoundly affects others.

The same is true in the life of the Church .The seeds of the kingdom are always been sown .When a parent here,--- teaches a child to make the sign of the Cross, ---

when a religious education teacher struggles to hand on the truth of faith to your child in a RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM , --- when a catholic here visits a sick person ,--- helps the homeless and counsels the doubtful ,--- when we celebrate Mass here and pray for the living and the dead -- -we are sowing seeds of the kingdom. Which of them will grow and at what rate is not for us to determine .The growth will happen in God's good time. As St. Paul reminds the Corinthians today We sow the seeds--- and God will give the growth.

The reward we will receive from the Lord, as St. Peter reminds us in today's second reading, is not for the growth, but the number of seeds we tried to grow.

We all look forward to a great future for our country and our Church .If and when that will happen is not in our control. We should all focus on the faithful seeding, the generous planting,... and leave the rest to God .

The mission of our generation may or may not be to harvest. ...

The MISSION of every generation, however, is to do THE PLANTING.

AMEN.