

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11
Ps 65:10-14 (Lk 8:8)
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

Monday July 17

Exodus 1:8-14,22
Ps 124:1b-8
Matthew 10:34--11:1

Tuesday July 18

Exodus 2:1-15a
Ps 69:3,14,30-31,33-34
Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday July 19

Exodus 3:1-6,9-12
Ps 103:1b-4,6-7
Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday July 20

Exodus 3:13-20
Ps 105:1,5,8-9,24-27
Matthew 11:28-30

Friday July 21

Exodus 11:10--12:14
Ps 116:12-13,15-18
Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday July 22 St. Mary Magdalene

Exodus 12:37-42
Ps 136:1,23-24,10-15
John 20:1-2,11-18

Sunday's readings are about sowing seeds. The important thing to remember about seed sowing is that the effort is worthless if the seeds are not changed by being cast to the ground. Each seed must give up its former self, dying in the dirt while new life stirs within it. Only then can it send out a tender, first root which will multiply and grow stronger and deeper to support upward growth. Even so, it has to be properly nourished to survive.

If all this takes place, the end result is a plant that looks nothing like the seed, which as it grows develops the ever-more important mission of benefitting the wider world of Nature beyond itself.

As we listen to Jesus explain the parable, we say yes, we want to be seeds that become fruitful lives. But desiring it does not automatically transform us. What is it that makes the soil of our lives rich and growth-producing?

The reading from Isaiah tells us that it is God himself who is the rich soil – God and his Word. Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading that suffering is part of creation (seeds must fall in the dirt and die in order to produce a fruitful life). Redemption grows from suffering and death.

We will never feel truly fulfilled until we've surrendered to the soil and have allowed God to nourish our growth.



Reflect & Discuss:

1. What tender, new roots do you have that are sprouting from times of suffering and loss?
2. What blessings are springing up from them?
3. What ministry (what benefit to others) could be a fruitful gift of these blessings?
4. Share with your family or faith sharing group what it means to give up your former self to allow new life to stir and grow.
5. What is the will of God (what does the Word say) regarding the end result? Give examples from your life or from the lives of others.