

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 17:22-24
 Psalm 92:2-3,13-16
 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
 Mark 4:26-34

Monday June 18

1 Kings 21:1-16
 Ps 5:2-7
 Matthew 5:38-42

Tuesday June 19

1 Kings 21:17-29
 Ps 51:3-4,5-6ab,11,16
 Matthew 5:43-48

Wednesday June 20

2 Kings 2:1,6-14
 Ps 31:20,21,24
 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday June 21 St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Sirach 48:1-14
 Ps 97:1-7
 Matthew 6:7-15

Friday June 22

2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20
 Ps 132:11-14,17-18
 Matthew 6:19-23

Saturday June 23

2 Chronicles 24:17-25
 Ps 89:4-5,29-34
 Matthew 6:24-34

This week, something is going to happen that will give you the opportunity to touch someone's life with God's love. Watch for it.

If you consciously choose to make the most of the situation, you might feel challenged, perhaps a bit nervous or intimidated, but you will experience the joy of making a difference for the kingdom of God. And you might be surprised at how well you do!

God has been preparing you for this situation for a long time. Your trials, your spiritual education, your personal purification process, your prayer-time insights, your Christ-centered conversations with others – all these and more have been part of the preparation.

You are like the seed in the Gospel passage. Life's circumstances have fertilized you, watered you, and tilled

your soil. Over time, the seed sprouted, the plant grew, and the flowers began to produce good fruit.

Every day, we all encounter small and sometimes large opportunities to serve the kingdom of God. We don't have to be full-time volunteers nor paid employees of the Church to work in the mission of Christ. If we are willing, he touches the world through us in our homes, our workplaces, our parishes, in the grocery store, in the traffic tie-ups, on the Internet, and everywhere we go.

Have any of your seeds sprouted into a tree that withered from neglect or got chopped down by others? This happens to all of us. The good news is: In every dead tree at least one fruit remains, shriveled up and hanging

from a lifeless branch, but secretly holding a very valuable seed.



We are to take those ugly, dead fruits and plant them in the

freshly tilled soil of today. A new tree will grow and it will become taller and stronger and more abundantly fruitful than the tree from which it came, because the decay from the original tree is now additional fertilizer in the soil.

In everything that happens to you, remember: You have good fruits to share; God has been nurturing their growth. You *are* ready!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What are some of the ways you have grown in your faith? How can this help others?
2. Realizing that the good fruit that come from your growth is Jesus working through you to make the world a better place, how do you feel about this?
3. Describe various ways that we continue the mission of Christ in our ordinary lives.
4. What produces new growth in us so that we become more useful to Christ?