

Dear Friends,

Sincerely,
Father Beaudin

“Jesus said, ‘What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches.’”

[Luke 13.18-19]

This season of harvest always gives us a good opportunity to reflect on God’s harvest. A harvest that occurs within the world, within a community and ultimately, within the human heart.

Jesus uses the image of the ‘kingdom of God’ as a point of emphasis. Always seen as removed and mysterious, in fact it is quite real as he points out in the above quote.

Found within a tiny mustard that grows into something gigantic. As it does it takes much with it or at least has the possibility of doing so. Its measure being our commitment represented in the quality of our discipleship.

A case can be made that the ‘kingdom’ grows in proportion to us or at least in our growth in the love of God. That fruit is shown by our actions. In the end however the kingdom is a gift from God. Thus, the words of Saint Peter Chrysologus in this regard are instructive.

As the text says, the Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed, because the Kingdom is brought by a word from heaven, is received through hearing, is sown by Faith, takes root through belief, grows by hope, is diffused by profession, expands through virtue, and is spread out into branches. To these branches it invites the birds of heaven, that is, the powers of spiritual insight. In those branches it receives them in a peaceful abode.

May we ask God for the gift of spiritual insight that we may make his kingdom more real in our world, and in our hearts!

An Advent Prayer for Self-Knowledge

In Haiti just as in England, Spain, Italy, or India – there are unhappy people everywhere. Not only because they don’t have any bread to eat. No, they hunger for love, understanding, and companionship. They suffer from loneliness, the feeling of being unwanted and rejected, a poverty of the soul. These are the things that can be far worse than being hungry or not having enough material goods....

Let’s not live distracted lives. Let us know ourselves so that we can better understand our brothers and sisters. If we want to understand those with whom we live, we need to understand ourselves first of all. [Saint Teresa of Calcutta]