



The Word of God is like a seed... **PLANT IT IN YOUR HEART.**

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Joseph Parish,

On this **15th Sunday in Ordinary Time** 2026 Jesus sits by the sea and tells a story we've all heard: a sower throws seed everywhere. Some lands on the path, some on rocks, some among thorns, some on good soil. The seed is the same. The difference is the ground.

Isaiah tells us God's word is like rain and snow. It doesn't fall just to look pretty. "It waters the earth, making it bring forth and sprout." God's word has a job. It accomplishes what He sends it to do. That means when Scripture is read, when a homily is preached, when you pray one line from the Gospel on your drive — something is happening. Rain is falling.

But rain alone doesn't guarantee a harvest. The sower in Matthew's parable is wildly generous. He doesn't test the soil first. He scatters. That's how God treats us. He keeps sowing even in the hard, distracted, rocky parts of our lives. He's patient. He waits for the thaw.

Romans reminds us that all creation is groaning as in childbirth, waiting for redemption. So are we. We know the ache of "path, rock, thorn" seasons — when the word doesn't seem to take. Yet the sower keeps coming. The soil can change. A heart hardened by grief can soften. A mind crowded by worry can be cleared.

So this week, don't ask "Why didn't it work?" Ask "Where can I let the rain in?" Five minutes with one verse. Silence instead of scrolling. Confession to break up the hard ground. God is not stingy with seed. He is only asking for soil willing to receive it. And from that soil, He promises fruit: thirty, sixty, a hundredfold.

"The word is very near you," Moses said. It's still near. Let it fall.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,
Pastor

