

HOMILY FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (SEXAGESIMA)

The Parable of the Sower

Let us firstly consider the message from today's Epistle. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul is concerned about the false teachings being taught to the Corinthians by false Apostles. He is also concerned about how easily the Corinthians gave themselves over to such foolish teachings. He therefore urges the Corinthians to listen to his own '*foolishness*' of believing in God, as they have been listening to his opponents. His opponents glorify themselves by boasting about things that satisfy the flesh. Paul states a list of ways he has suffered as a service to Christ. He boasts about his endurance for Christ rather than himself. This is exactly what we ought to be doing as Christians. We should not boast about our own achievements, but rather about God's power, which is at work through us. This is true when looking at our country today. There are many false preachers, teaching about quick ways of acquiring wealth, beautiful houses and prosperity. Many poor people fall into their deceitful trap by investing their last hard earned cents in them. Remember (Matthew 6: 19) "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal*"

In His parable, Jesus Christ reveals to us four important things we need to understand regarding the kingdom of God.

The first is the **Sower**, who we know is God Himself, but for the purposes of this homily we can apply it to anyone spreading the Good News about God's Kingdom today. It is our bounden duty, as clergy and God's children, to ensure that the world knows about the heavenly Kingdom and the eternal benefits that comes with believing, as our inheritance in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As Christians, and especially as priests, God has called us to do the spade work. (Luke10:2) "*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.*" We must not fail, no matter how difficult the work may be, even during times of despair, when people feel helpless and lose hope. Brothers, we must stand firm, for we do know that there will be a reward for us. (Mark16:15-16) And He said to them, "*Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned*".

The second is the **Seed**, which is the Word of God. We have to ensure the word of God fulfils its intended purpose. We must plough the word without discriminating, just as a farmer sows the seed indiscriminately. Though every seed fell on a different kind of soil, the farmer continued doing his work.

The third is the various **Soils** on which the seed fell. Every kind of soil represents different types of people and how they have responded to God's Word.

Some chose to ignore it, some believed but their hearts yearned for earthly possessions, some were distracted by the problems they experienced in their lives and others received and lived the Word. This is what Jesus needs from each one of us. We are to have complete faith in Him. We are not to have fear and despair in times of troubles such as the times we live in with Covid19. We are not to be hopeless even should we lose our loved ones. Let us know, that God is love and that He is always on our side.

In the Name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.