

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 23rd, 2017

On January 6th, 1929, a 19 year-old Albanian nun arrived in India. She began her novitiate in Darjeeling and then made her final profession as a religious sister on May 24th, 1937. From that day on, she would be forever known as Mother Teresa. While living in Calcutta during the 1930s and '40s, she taught at St. Mary's Bengali Medium School.

On September 10th, 1946, on a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa received what she defined as a "call within a call." This special "call within a call" gave rise to the Missionaries of Charity, a religious order of priests, religious Brothers and Sisters, and lay Co-Workers founded by Mother Teresa. In the beginning of 1949 Mother Teresa a group of young women joined in this effort. Shortly after, she laid the foundation, mission, and carism for the future Missionaries of Charity. She wanted this new order to help the "poorest among the poor." She desired "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls" by "labouring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor." In 1950, with the permission from the bishop, the Missionaries of Charity was officially created. At the time, the order had one small

community in Calcutta with only 12 members, and today, 67 years later, the community has over 4,500 Sisters who run orphanages, homes for AIDS victims, and charity centers worldwide. They care for refugees, the blind, the disabled, the elderly, alcoholics, the poor and homeless, and flood victims. I can't even imagine how many people have been inspired by Mother Teresa's life and spirituality. Her favorite motto was "Do small thing with great love."

In today's gospel, Jesus uses three parables to describe what the kingdom of heaven is like. He offers several images. "The Kingdom of heaven is like "a man who sowed good seed in his field...a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field...and yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour. When we reflect on these images, we realize that each of them concerns a person who initiates an action – sowing seeds in a field and mixing yeast into flour. These are not difficult tasks, but we know that these small, but significant actions will eventually lead to a great outcome such as laying the foundation for a mustard tree or bread.

Jesus says the Kingdom of God is like this. God has sowed the seed in the world through His only begotten son Jesus Christ. And he continues to grant us the seed and yeast for the Kingdom in His Word and the Eucharist. By, through, and with the Word of God and the Eucharist, Christ calls us to sow seeds for Him as His followers. Indeed, in every moment of our lives, we can find the seed of the Kingdom of God in the midst of quiet prayer, in the eyes of the poor and marginalized, by the bed of the sick, and in the hearts of our beloved family and friends.

Pope Francis once said;

“The kingdom of God is not far from us, but is near and often “hidden in the holiness of daily life. Even suffering, the Cross, the cross of everyday life – the cross of work, family, to carry on doing good things – this small daily cross is part of the Kingdom of God.”

If we look carefully around us, we can find so many opportunities to sow the seed and mix yeast into flour through our small acts of faith and love.

When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and show our love to the homeless, we sow seeds for the Kingdom.

When we visit and pray for the sick and the dying and empathize those who lost their loved ones, we sow seeds for the Kingdom.

Through our love, patience, and kindness toward our family and friends, we can sow seeds for the Kingdom every day.