

Homily. 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. A. 15/16 July 2023.

Here's God's message of comfort and hope. Yes, we are caught up in a process, an evolution if you will, moving gradually towards maturity and wholeness. Yes, by our words and deeds we can needlessly delay and divert this process, but we can't stop it or prevent it from reaching its goal, for God is quite able to write straight on the crooked lines of our lives.

We are told to Imagine this; the rains and snows fall down from the heavens to water this earth irrespective of anything we do or don't do. They come as gifts from above in order to make life flourish on earth and they won't return without succeeding in what God sent them to do. Likewise, imagine a sower throwing seeds across their fields. Many of these seeds are lost due to our shallowness, selfishness and ignorance. However, Jesus reminds us, that enough of these seeds do land in the good, rich soil, growing there to a harvest of fullness and plenty. God does this work, preferably with us, but despite us if necessary, for God is indeed both kind, merciful and a lover of life.

On a bigger canvas St. Paul describes the entire creation, the cosmos, from the very beginning as being like a woman involved in one great act of giving birth. There is pain and struggle in this process, even setbacks and delays, but the end is assured. This end is the birth and the liberation of all of creation and of humanity, too. Paul adds that we, God sons and daughters in Christ, are like the first fruits to have evolved and emerged from this birthing with other people and all else still following along.

This is dynamic language. These are moving, living images from the heart of the scriptures and from the core of Jesus teachings. They're speaking of God's plans, of the unfolding amongst us of God's will for us today and for all the days yet to come. This goes onwards until what God desires has succeeded in its aims and come into being. Our invitation, our call, is to be good tilled soil, ploughed open to receive gifts of God's seeds and the heavenly waters of fruitfulness. Our roll is to keep on working with this process until the new life and liberty God wants is given fruitful birth.

This is the Jesus story, too. It takes us from a cradle to a cross, then through that agony into the maturity an entire new divine creation. With our privileged access to Jesus in the scriptures and sacraments, here in our community and in the power of the Spirit within us, we have every advantage needed to welcome God's will and to work with and for the coming of God's reign.

But, let me be clear here, even if we don't always cooperate with God (and sadly sometimes we don't, do we?) God's kingdom is still happening regardless. For, as I said earlier, no matter the crooked lines we scrawl on the pages of history, God still writes straight, telling the story that must be told; the good news of the life of all that God has so lovingly created and is busy saving and redeeming from dissolution, chaos and death.