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2627 Muskoka Road, 117 Baysville, ON

Tony Sacheli Rosi Vandenberg Jan Sirek Fr. Paul Hogan

Office Administrator—office@stmarvshuntsville.ca Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) - rsidowney@gmail.com Deacon - office@stmaryshuntsville.ca Pastor - Frpaulhogan@peterboroughdiocese.org



#### The Parable of the Sower - Mark 4.1-20

Jesus' introducing of parables at this point, will help in determining whether the crowd wish to understand the significance of his teachings or simply keep following him for a miracle. All the parables speak to the Kingdom of God, and more to the point, who God is and how God wishes to be manifested in our daily living. So, let us begin with the parable of the sower.

We hear of a sower, who one day goes out to sow his seed. Those listening would think to themselves that this farmer is neither wise nor frugal, because he apparently scatters the seed recklessly, paying no attention to the quality of the soil. They know that if you want to produce a rich harvest, you scatter your seed only on good soil, and not on hardened, rocky or weed invested land. Perhaps the question that Jesus wants them to consider is how does the land itself become good and rich, and therefore prepared to receive the seed? Those who are arrogant and self-righteous, believe it is through their own action, that not known before. I may not be entirely ready to receive God, but this they are good soil. Jesus would not agree.

He explains that the seed is the Word of God, and the Sower, is God's self. What Jesus wants to become more obvious to us, is that God is not recklessly or thoughtlessly scattering His Word wherever he chooses. Rather, He graciously lavishes Himself upon us, continuously, wherever we presently find ourselves in this life. This is not an unwise or wasteful action, but is a testimony to a God who loves us. God accepts us for who we are in this very moment, but knows that of his loving Being, we are capable of being so much more, because God has placed the potential within us to bear much fruit in our life. But even if I choose not to become the rich soil, but remain the hardened path, God's love for me is not diminished, nor will he stop sharing His Word with me. He will not give up me, not anyone, not ever.

action coming from God, the transformation would not take place.

Notice, that Jesus does not comment on the moral character of the person but He speaks to the present state of the mind and heart of that person. This parable then is one of encouragement to those who wish to be known by God.

Whether I am hard of heart and closed minded, God is prepared to encounter me here. And perhaps in the briefest of moments I am aware of His presence, before it is snatched away by me closing down again due to fear. This brief encounter has changed me, and so when God comes to me again, I am better able to recognize His presence. I cannot know God, be changed and healed, if God has not first chosen to give Himself to me.

Now that I am no longer entirely shut down, perhaps in the moments when I struggle with the challenges that come my way, I am better able to receive God's Word. Now, for a little longer I am opened up and able to glimpse God's presence, feeling a Joy I have again will not stop God from coming to us again, and again, and again. Each time I am changed and further healed.

God continues to decisively share himself, even as the cares of this world have a hold on me. God is present as the struggle ensues between me wanting to follow, believe and know God, and at the same time, to fit into the expectations of others. At no time does God give up on me, but untiringly embraces me in the moment with the fulness

In this parable, Jesus is showing us that God is not about waiting for us to become perfect before he comes to us. Or that we should look down on those who do not receive God like the good soil. Rather, God encounters us as we are and is willing to slowly work with us in bringing about the transformation of the kingdom within us. The good soil So, consider this, the different qualities of soil that are mentioned in has always been there, within us, but without God's persistent care, this parable, is where we may find ourselves in this life. The quality of we might simply settle for a hardened heart all our life. Jesus wants us the soil changes because God's Word has fallen upon us. Without this to know that this is a loving and patient God, who knows our potential before we do. God is always with us, and always will be.

### **SVDP SOCIETY**

12 Centre Street N., Huntsville, ON - Hotline: 705.789.0008

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul group here in our parish, thank you for your continued **Food Pantry Donations** that came in this past Tuesday.

Through your generosity, a good 430 lbs of food was donated. Your generosity has been overwhelming, again! Your neighbours are better able to live with dignity. Thank you. Peace and Good Will.



# 8th Sunday of Easter - May 31st - The Feast of Pentecost



"Without Pentecost the Christevent - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

Henri Nouwen

#### The Call To Holy Surprise / Christine Valters Paintner

We live in the midst of chaotic times. As crises continue to build, we may find ourselves confused or fearful. We may want to gather in the upper room of our lives with our closest friends and close the door on a troubled world just like the disciples. Yet chaos always calls for creative response, it always beckons us to open to holy surprise.

Today is the feast of Pentecost, that glorious final day of the season of resurrection. The apostles were together experiencing bewilderment over how to move forward when the Holy Spirit flows among them and breathes courage into their hearts. The story of Pentecost asks a question: How do I let my expectations and cynicism close my heart to the new voice rising like a fierce wind?

In Benedictine tradition, conversion is a central spiritual practice. Conversion for me essentially means making a commitment to always be surprised by God. Conversion is the recognition that we are all on a journey and always changing. God is always offering us something new within us. Conversion is a commitment to total inner transformation and a free response to the ways God is calling us and to new images of God. Eugene Peterson describes it this way: "What we must never be encouraged to do, although all of us are guilty of it over and over, is to force Scripture to fit our experience. Our experience is too small; it's like trying to put the ocean into a thimble. What we want is to fit into the world revealed by Scripture, to swim in its vast ocean."

Pentecost demands that we listen with a willing heart, and that we open ourselves to ongoing radical transformation. Soul work is always challenging and calls us beyond our comfort zone. Prayer isn't about baptizing the status quo, but entering into dynamic relationship with the God who always makes things new. Scripture challenges our ingrained patterns of belief, our habitual attitudes and behavior. Conversion is about maintaining what the Buddhists call "Beginner's Mind." St. Benedict speaks to this in his Rule when he says, "always begin again."

To be fully human and alive is to know the tension of our dustiness, our mortality, to be called to a profoundly healthy humility where we acknowledge that we can know very little of the magnificence of the divine Source of all. Once we have journeyed through the desert and stripped away the vestiges of our hubris, we can dance into the new life awaiting us.

The Spirit descends on those gathered together in a small room and breaks the doors wide open. We are reminded that practicing resurrection is not for ourselves alone, but on behalf of a wider community. Not only for those with whom we attend church services, but beyond to the ones who sit at the furthest margins of our awareness. Pentecost is a story of the courage that comes from breaking established boundaries.

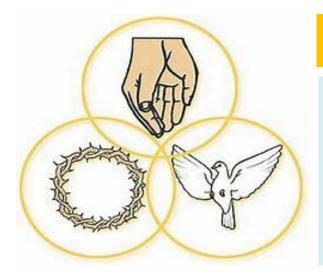
We Remember our Faithful Departed especially **Myrtle Peace, Steve MacInnis & Tom Vandenberg** through our sadness our love shines through, helping us back in time to remember them with Joy

### We join our prayers for those who are ill at this time ...

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Pamela Festing, Joe Hanrath, David Phillips, John Schreurs, Connie Gregory, Kristina Lenart, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Claudette Mainville, Michael Brown, Brian Dittmar, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Ruth Anne Foley & Jim Tremblay Jr.

And let us pray for those who are so tirelessly working to take care of those who are ill at this time.

May they remain safe, healthy and well.



## Next Sunday June 7th - TRINITY SUNDAY

"The Holy Trinity doesn't need our permission to carry on in their endlessly resourceful work of making all things new.

That we are invited to catch even a glimpse of the splendor is grace.

All of it, every breath and every second is grace."

Rachel Held Evans

"Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete."

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a dream, realize it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it.

Life is too precious, do not destroy it.

Life is life, fight for it.

We are encouraged to "physically distance" ourselves, for the common good of everyone's health. This is no reason to "Socially Forget."

Reach out to those who maybe most vulnerable at this time to ensure they are well, or whether they are in need of anything.

Be Safe, Be Thoughtful

Please visit our website to see what is going on through our Parish Calendar and so much more.

 $Website\ address:\ \textbf{maryassumption parish.com}$ 

#### Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope you are faring well under these conditions. I wish to thank all who have so graciously been reaching out to one another, ensuring that others spirits, minds and hearts continue to flourish. I would also like to thank you for remaining so patient with how things are unfolding. Your care for one another is helping everyone to be well and remain as healthy as possible. Finally, thank you to all who have been able to continue to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society and our Parish Church through your prayers and donations. Your faith in action is a sign of your good will that extends well beyond ourselves. Peace & good will. Fr. Paul

### May 23rd/24th Weekend Offertory

\$2,916.00

Thank you for your continued kindness and participation I n your parish church.

pokój z tobą