

## MARK 4:26-29

## SEED IS FOR SOWING

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

In the days before sod farms and trucks that blast a green mix of seed, fertilizer and straw, when you wanted to plant a new lawn you tilled and raked the yard and then spread grass seed, either sowing it or using a spreader. I was always amazed when watching my father, or later when doing it myself, that the process resulted in a uniform lawn. From the ripping open of the dusty burlap seed bag, to the pouring out of the dry and dead-looking seed, to the spreading it on the ground, to the excitement of the early sprouting, the question in my mind was always, how can this be? But it never failed. With proper watering, we always ended up with a lawn. Other than supply dirt and water, we did nothing. In fact, it was always humbling when grass also sprouted on the patio or in the driveway. Obviously the seed contained everything it needed to become grass.

Jesus tells us that this is what the kingdom of God is like. The Gospel is the seed of the kingdom and it contains in itself everything necessary for the growth and consummation of the kingdom. Once the seed hits the soil, the sower no longer has any power or control over what happens. St Paul wrote a similar message to the church in Corinth: *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow* (1 Corinthians 3:7). The Gospel is God’s word, has God’s power and will grow because that is God’s will. But God has made his word like grass seed in order to bless us. As long as the seed stays in the bag it is dormant. Only when the sower casts it on the soil does it germinate and grow into a fruitful plant. We are called to cast the Gospel on the soil of the world – no more, no less – so that there will be fruit for the kingdom. *“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground...the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain...”*

**Holy Father, you have blessed me with the privilege of having a role in the spread of your kingdom. Because a farmer cannot fulfill his vocation without seed, I thank you for the gift of your Gospel. Like a good farmer who diligently sows the seed, give me the confidence to spread your Gospel message everywhere I go, so that I might see your fruit-filled kingdom and provide for the harvest. Amen.**