

Our Good Works-15th Sunday (Year A)

Matthew 13:1-23

The Parable of the Sower invites us to consider if we are cultivating 'good soil' for our lives. We must be rooted in prayer and nourished by the Scripture in order to grow in the Lord. This allows us to be like the 'seed sown on rich soil' which Jesus tell us, is 'the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit.' (Mt 13:23). The fruit we bear includes the personal good that we do in our everyday lives and the larger good of the international Catholic Church. This liturgy will examine the good fruits of SCIAF and our partners' labours around the world.

Sharing Scripture

Ask the children, what do seeds need to grow? You will likely get suggestions of water, sunlight, time, temperature, air and soil. Some of the children may even suggest plant food, pots or many other things. You might want to bring in a plant to encourage ideas!

In the Gospel, Jesus uses the example of a seed to represent the word of God and soil to represent the people who hear it. Jesus asks us to think about what kind of soil are we? Are we good soil, where the word of God can grow and flourish?

Jesus also tells us exactly what the seeds of God's word need to grow in our lives. He says that hearing the word and understanding it are two of the most crucial elements. The Church helps us cultivate the 'good soil' Jesus describes by sharing Scripture (hearing the word) and providing examples of how to apply it to our lives (understanding the word).

With patience we can see God growing and working in our lives and the lives of others. Being kind to one another, caring for plants and animals and telling the truth are some examples. However, sometimes it takes a very long time for us to see things fully grow and bloom. Think of how long it takes for a tiny seed to grow into a plant, and for that plant to provide food for us to eat! This is why we must continually seek out the word of God and the sacraments to nourish ourselves so that we may grow many good things in our lives.

SCIAF

Depending on the resources available, use either the 'Our Good Works' PowerPoint or the 'Our Good Works' pdf to share how SCIAF and our work connect to the Gospel. If you decide to use the pdfs, be sure to show the children the accompanying pictures as you share the stories of David and Maria.

Respond: 'Good Fruit' prayer craft

We can find good fruits in our personal lives too. With patience, many things can grow from the positive actions we take.

Give each child a copy of the 'Good Fruit' pdf colouring sheet. Read aloud the scripture printed in the image and ask the children to think about the good actions (fruits) they see growing in their own lives. For those that need inspiration, some ideas are:

- + Listening to parents and caregivers
- + Sharing with siblings and friends
- + Caring for pets

Remind the children that some things take time to grow and that there may be seeds planted in their own lives for the future.