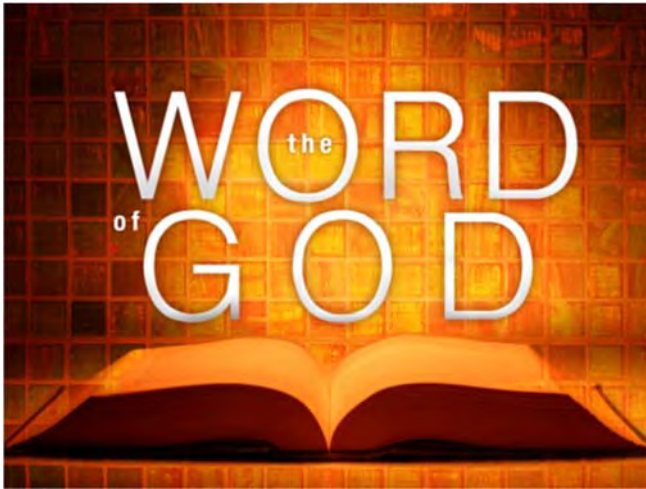


## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



‘A sower went out to sow, and some seed fell on the path, some fell on rocky ground, some fell among thorns, but some fell on rich soil.’

This parable from today’s Gospel speaks to our life, it is very existential. The seed sown is the Word of God. God is the sower, who casts the seed of the Word into the world. But this seed does not automatically bear fruit, it depends where it falls. We can be the path, the rocky ground, the thorns or the soil. It depends how we listen to the Word, and our interior disposition, as to what happens to the Word we receive.

Those who are the ‘path’ do not understand the Word of God, the Bible, the Scriptures, and therefore even the events of their life. They will always listen with an angle, an analytical pre-

condition, which wants to dominate the Word; they compare notes with what they think they know, and reject that which does not appeal to reason or seems intelligible. The Word never arrives to their heart, but always stays in their head, and soon after that disappears completely.

We can be the rocky ground. For others, the readings in Mass are great, the homilies are wonderful, they feel good when they leave Mass, but the Word does not make a difference in their life. Some trial or tribulation comes along and the Word is immediately forgotten. The last place they seek help when faced with the daily difficulties in life is the Word of God. Friends, social media, their own reasoning’s are the staple go-to’s when decisions need to be made.

Others are the thorns. They are more worried about their summer vacation, or their new car, or painting the living room, or getting into college, than they are about listening to the Word. The anxieties of life and the lure of riches choke whatever was sown.

But there are others who are the rich soil, and who bear fruit.

Another word for soil is ‘humus’, the same etymological root as ‘humility’ or ‘homo sapien.’ We are made of the earth, and our deepest truth is humility. Humility is the truth. Only the humble can listen to the Word of God and see it bear fruit in their life.

A man called Jack once told me that he was always the path, the rock or the thorns. He thought he listened to the Word, but one day realized he didn’t. This realization came to him when he heard the reading about Jesus before Pilate, and Pilate’s wife told her husband what had been revealed to her in a dream - not to condemn this innocent man. Jack said that the realized he never listened to his wife. Sure, he heard her, but he never listened to what she said; he had written her off a long time ago. The Word effected a change in him, and the relationship with his wife, Joan also changed dramatically. Their marriage, and their family life was rejuvenated.

That’s all well and good. But first we need to listen to the Word of God. When do we do that? Sunday Mass is one option, but it’s not easy to listen then, there is so much else going on, we can get distracted. That is why every Wednesday evening during the summer months, at 8:00 pm in the Adult Ed classroom, there will be a celebration of Evening Prayer. Why not come in the middle of the week to listen to the Word of God, the Psalms and a Gospel. Come and spend time with the Word, you will discover that it is not sown in vain.

Fr. Sean