

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A businessman ordered flowers to be sent to the opening of his friend's new branch office. When the businessman got there, he was shocked to see the flowers with the inscription. "Rest in Peace." He was so outraged that he stopped at the florist to complain. "It could be worse," the florist said, "Just think: Today someone was buried beneath a floral arrangement with the inscription. 'Congratulations on Your New Location!'"

Dear Friends,

We get so many things for our life through nature. They give us everything in abundance. The sun gives its light abundantly and we can literally see how all things around us support us by producing their fullest fruits. The sun is extraordinarily generous, giving huge parts of itself away every second.

Scientists tell us that every second, inside the sun, the equivalent of 4 million elephants are being transformed into light, an irretrievable, one-time gift. The sun is giving itself away. If this generosity should halt, all energy would eventually lose its source and everything would die and become inert. We, and everything on our planet, live because of the generosity of the sun.

Today's reading tells us to produce generously to the fullest. God is so abundant in his love and mercy. He is in other words prodigal beyond our imaginations. In the first reading, Isaiah the prophet speaks of God's word to the rain that comes for everyone in abundance. It accomplishes what is needed.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the parable of the sower with the explanations and the reason why he talked in parables. The parable begins with an enthusiastic and prodigal farmer who sows on all types of terrain or soil. Seventy-five percent of what he scatters produces nothing, but the yield of the rest is extraordinary. The intentions of the sower is to get the yield in all soil. He is so generous. The yielding depends on the listener.

God, from everything we can see, is so rich in love and mercy that he can afford to be wasteful, over-generous, non-calculating, non-discriminating, incredibly risk-taking, and big-hearted beyond our imaginations.

There is a saying that the air that we breathe out will be the air that we re-inhale. This is not correct ecologically. But it has more meaning for life in general. The more generous we are the better we receive. We need to produce more fruits by our life as we receive everything in abundance from God.

When God is generous in giving all, and the nature shares everything with us, let us also be generous in giving it back by producing good values in life. To be generous and big hearted, we need to trust in God's abundance and generosity. As we read in the letter to Romans 11:29, for the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. God always gives us everything.

Let us have more trust in his words and live it then share it with our family and friends and the community hundredfold.