

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,

Nature teaches a lot to our lives. there're three things that we can for sure agree upon. 1) Nature includes us in its space. 2) Nature produces abundantly 3) Nature depends on humans and serves them well. In a nutshell, inclusion, productivity, and dependency are the main characters on this earth we live.

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.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah presents a beautiful analogy of rain and snow descending from heaven, nourishing the earth, and enabling it to bear fruit. This imagery serves as a reminder that just as water sustains and revitalizes the land, God's Word holds a profound purpose and effect in our lives. It is not a mere collection of empty words or futile ideas but carries with it the power to accomplish precisely what God intends. His Word has the extraordinary ability to breathe life into our beings, bringing about transformation and fulfillment in ways we could never fathom.

When we open ourselves to the Word of God, we allow it to permeate the depths of our being, to penetrate our hearts and minds. It becomes a guiding force, leading us on the path of righteousness and virtue. God's Word has the power to ignite change within us, helping us to shed our old ways and embrace the transformative journey of faith. It renews

us, breathes new life into our spirits, and offers a compass to navigate the complexities of life.

The gospel speaks of the different ways people receive and respond to the message of God. It challenges us to reflect on our own openness and receptivity to His Word. The Gospel invites us to consider the condition of our hearts and the disposition with which we approach God's Word. It challenges us to cultivate a spirit of openness, attentiveness, and receptivity to His teachings. We are called to remove the hardness of our hearts, deepen our roots in faith, and detach ourselves from the distractions and entanglements of the world. By doing so, we create fertile ground for God's Word to take root, grow, and bear fruit in our lives.

As the second reading talks, change is a challenge. The kingdom is not an easy journey. It is like a labor pain a woman has. At the end it brings joy and happiness.

So let us ask ourselves how I can cultivate the attitude of listening to God's word and bearing fruits. How do I turn my heart to a good soil which bears fruits in my life?