

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, June 13, 2021  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle B

A few years ago, I received regular updates from a friend about his firstborn son. He attaches baby pictures to every message – as a newborn, as being baptized, as a birthday celebrant, as the toddler in stumbling steps. It must be such an awesome experience to be conscious of someone growing before your very eyes, such a great privilege for moms and dads. Life is a mystery of growth. Many things amaze us as we find ourselves moving from one stage to another and developing from one phase of life to the next.

Today, the Lord wants us to focus on an area of life where there needs to be expansion, movement, and growth. Jesus speaks of the parables of growth, deriving his examples from nature but lifting our eyes to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is like a seed scattered in the ground, sprouting into a young plant in its own mysterious pace. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all, and yet, when fully grown, has branches for the birds to build their nest.

This Kingdom is not a finished product that comes in a package from heaven. It is given to us as a seed. And like a seed, it germinates, grows, and blossoms. A seed follows the laws of nature, which is the law of growth. For this to happen though, it takes some time. We cannot rush the seed into sprouting its first leaves. We cannot rush a tree into bearing fruits too early. For optimum results, we need to respect the laws of nature, the laws of growth.

This may not be easy for us to understand today. The image of the farmer planting his crops and waiting for harvest has been replaced by people sitting before a computer that give out information in seconds, images in a split second. The patience called for in the Gospel and the perseverance that it depicts for us are values hardly appreciated in the world of the computer and social media.

This translates in our relationship with God when we are tempted all the time to take the shortcut. Do we experience our spiritual life as a series of steps in growing in faith and in love of the Lord? Are we willing to follow every step faithfully instead of manipulating our life with the Lord?

How many Catholics decide to attend the Mass with the shortest homily? How many of us shop for priests who will give us what we want to hear rather than what the Word of God proclaims? Do we take the time each day to recollect before God, or to reflect on the Bible, or to utter a prayer of thanks?

It is good to be surrounded by the fast-paced products of technology. However, there are still many human mysteries that require patience in waiting, wondering observing – just like the growth of a child and like the ascent of the soul to God. In these we can only be armed with the sense of trust and hope in God, perseverance and patience, surrender and abandonment to the will of the loving Father.

May we enter into the gradual but constant process of growth in our faith.

Amen