

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, July 12, 2026
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A

A teacher was once asked, “What is the hardest part of teaching?” She answered without hesitation, “It is giving your best every day and not knowing which lesson will change a student's life.” She added, “Sometimes a student ignores everything you say.” “Then, years later, he comes back and says, ‘That one lesson you taught me saved my life.’”

You simply never know when a seed will finally grow. That is one of the great lessons of today's gospel. Jesus tells us about a Sower who goes out to sow. Surprisingly, he scatters seed everywhere –on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil. At first, his method seems careless. But Jesus is not teaching farming. He is revealing the heart of God. The Sower refuses to become selective. He does not say, “That ground is hopeless.” “That patch isn't worth my seed.” He keeps sowing. He keeps hoping. He keeps believing. That is how God loves us.

Perhaps this gospel is especially comforting for parents. Many mothers and fathers have prayed, sacrificed, and done everything they could to raise their children well. Yet some children still drift away from God, make destructive choices, or lose their way. Parents often ask, “Where did I fail?”

Today's gospel gently reminds us that no single person determines another's future. Every human heart is influenced by many voices: friends, popular culture, social media, disappointments, and personal choices. Above all, God created each person free. Love can guide. It cannot force. The same is true for teachers, for priests, for catechists, for counselors, and for all who try to lead others to God.

We plant. We encourage. We accompany. We pray. But we cannot choose for another person. Only God can touch the deepest places of the human heart. That is why the Parable of the Sower is a Gospel of hope. Jesus is saying, “Do not stop sowing just because some seeds do not immediately bear fruit.” “Continue speaking the truth. Continue loving, forgiving, praying, witnessing.” “Leave the harvest to God.”

At the same time, the Gospel turns the spotlight toward us. We are not only Sowers. We are also the soil. Every Mass, God places His Word into our hearts. The question is no longer, “Did I hear the readings?” The question is, “What kind of soil did God’s Word find in me today?”

Every Eucharist is an act of divine sowing. Christ first feeds us with His Word. Then He nourishes us with His Body and Blood. The Lord gives us both the seed and the grace for it to bear fruit.

Brothers and Sisters, perhaps some seeds you planted years ago seem to have disappeared... Do not lose heart. Perhaps some prayers you have offered seem unanswered... Keep praying. Perhaps some acts of love seem forgotten... Keep loving. Because with God, no seed sown in love is ever truly wasted.

So today, do not measure your faithfulness by what you can already see. Measure it by your willingness to keep sowing. Keep loving, even when love is not returned. Keep praying, even when heaven seems silent. Keep forgiving, even when wounds remain. Keep witnessing, even when no one seems to listen.

The harvest belongs to God. Our vocation is simply to keep sowing. And one day, by His grace, we will discover that not a single seed sown in faith and love was ever lost.