

JULY 17, 2011
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MATTHEW 13:24-43

In today's gospel, we hear some of the very familiar parables Jesus used in his ministry. To his audiences, Jesus' parables spoke about common surroundings and things, such as, fields, sowers, seeds, yeast~ and "darnel". For his hearers, these were easy to relate to because the parables dealt with practical matters in their daily experiences.

The parables are easy for us, too, at least on the surface. We have heard them over and over for many years. Because they are familiar, we are able to tell the story if we are given the title. However, if we open our minds and hearts, we may acknowledge that we have never taken them in or truly understood them.

These simple stories deal with multi-faceted views into inner truth and reality. Their simplicity invites us to identify the parables in our own lives, our own times. These modern parables will call forth some basic questions. What is my treasure? What kind of ground do I provide for my faith? Are there any obstacles that keep my faith from growing? If we hear today's parables, they, too, will challenge us in regard to ourselves, or neighbor, or world, and our God. They will change us and make us more human, molding us into a follower of Christ. In our Constitution we read ... "even as we commit all our efforts to the work of our mission, we place ourselves and our world in the hands of God whose love and power accomplish more than we can understand" (*Constitution*, # 14).

Jesus continues to speak to us in the modern day parables/stories that we hear from others in our daily lives. Others speak to us of the treasure of the faith, hope and love that they experience in their lives. We share with one another how valuable our vocation is to us as we tell our stories of novitiate days and ministry experiences. We tell each other about the paths our lives have taken and what has happened to the seed of our faith. These new parables reveal our inner worlds to one another and what reality means to us as we prayerfully reflect on what embracing the reign of God is all about.

--Sr. Catherine Fuhrmann, CDP and Alice Mazoch, Associate

For reflection or sharing:

- ▲ Choose a tangible symbol (a flower, a rock, water, a river, the ocean, the mountains) and use it to speak about your faith life, your relationship with God, the reign of God as you experience it.