

11 OTB.18; Ez 17:22-23; 2Cor 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34, *Wanted: Partners for the Future, no experience necessary!*

Summer is here.

Years ago this was the time I got my very first “real” job for money! With absolutely no skills and no practical knowledge of wrenches, electricity, water pressures, carpentry (wood shop in high school was not my best subject!) ... I worked for my parents *Appliance Store* delivering & installing washing machines, dryers, stoves etc.... ***amazingly I survived!*** With time, experience, & “on the job training” I could install your washer & dryer in about 20 minutes.

And they would work! *Sometimes you just have to hold your nose & jump in!*

Likewise, God has set up a sign in our lives:

“Wanted: Partners for the Future, no experience necessary!”

Let's explore ...

Fr. Flor McCarthy tells a version of *the creation story* that goes like this. “When God was creating the world, he did it bit by bit. He made the trees, the grass, the animals, the birds, the fish, and so on. As he was making these things, the angels kept asking, **‘is the world finished yet?’**

To which God would reply with a simple, 'No'.

Finally God made people, and said to them, *‘I'm tired. I want you to finish the world. If you agree to do so, then I promise to be your partner.’* They agreed. After this, whenever the angels inquired of God if the world was finished, the reply would come, **‘I don't know. You'll have to ask my partners.’**

We are God's partners in Creation

There is something each of us can do, and which we have to do. God will not do it for us. Not that God couldn't do it. It's just that *the Creator wants us* to be partners with Divinity! Jesus told a parable about planting seeds, ***This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would grow, he knows not how.*** Jesus was talking about us today.

We have to plant the seed. That's our part. Then we have to acknowledge that we can't do everything. We can't make the seed grow.

That's God's part. And God does God's part.

Any farmer or gardener will tell you that.

So, if there is something which needs doing in our own lives or in the wider world, let us *not sit around dreaming about it.* Let us do something about it, even if it's something very small. **Let us take that first step. Let us plant one seed.**

If we do that, then we can be sure that in good time God will see to it that we have a harvest to reap. As Paul says, “... **for we walk by faith, not by sight.**”

Once the food buyer for a residential school in Boston went to the Farmers' Market. Passing a stand that was heaped with beautiful sweet corn, the buyer asked the farmer who was selling it, and 'Did you grow this corn?' 'No, came the reply. **2 I planted the seed.**' After gathering in a bountiful harvest, a farmer took off his cap. Then standing in the middle of the empty cornfield, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Thank you, Lord, for the fine harvest.'

And the Lord looked down & said, 'And thank you. We did a good job.'*

We are the work of God's hands, but we are also God's hands at work.

*(Flor McCarthy, SDB, *New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies, Year B*)

Here is a real example. On Dec. 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks of Montgomery, AL, was arrested, handcuffed, & jailed for refusing to vacate a bus seat reserved for whites. That episode turned out to be **the seed** out of which grew the Civil Rights Movement. Ten years later, at the Freedom Festival, Rosa was given the title,

“the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement.” (M. Link, *Mission 2000*, Link, p.238)

**Why ... don't/do ... you/I ... believe that one person
... can make a difference in today's world?**

It has been said, “*There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done.*

One is called Yesterday and the other is called Tomorrow.

Today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live.” – Dalai Lama

Do we see ourselves as co-creators of a better world with the Spirit?

Listen to the words of **+Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw** (1937-2004):

“This is what we are about: We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an

opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master

builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.”

Ready to go to work for the Kingdom?

Are you worried about being a prophet-disciple? Take heart. Paul told the Corinthians, “**We are always courageous.**” In the original Greek “courageous” translates, “*tharreo*”, which means “*warm*” indicating that a person is cheerful/or confident. The “courage” of Paul is not heroic bravery, but the genuine hope that assures him he can put up with anything now because he knows where he's headed – the Kingdom of God. *Sometimes you just have to hold your nose and jump in!*

At this Liturgy of God's Work, recall that

Theodore Roosevelt once famously said, “*Whenever you are asked to do a job, tell ‘em, “Certainly I can!” Then get busy and find out how to do it.* – Theodore Roosevelt

God has asked you. No worries. God will enable you.

YOU’RE HIRED with full benefits!