

LIVING FAITH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY Matthew 13: 44-52



'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a net. We don't usually hear this image for the Kingdom of God, and yet, here it is!

The Kingdom of God is not a place, it is not somewhere we go to when we die. The Kingdom of Heaven is here and now, and it is you and me. WE are the net that God throws out into the world. Our job is to catch others, to draw them to God by our actions and our deeds of love, kindness, mercy and compassion.

Newfoundlanders know something about nets. If the mesh is too big, the fish will slip through. If it's too small, it will catch too many fish, and many will be smaller, not mature, not ready to be caught, fish that need a little longer to grow. The good fisherperson knows how to make a net that will be the right size and mesh to catch the fish he or she is after.

It's like that in the Kingdom of God as well. We listen. We listen with the ears of our hearts to the deepest longings of others. And we invite, we draw people to the God of Love and Mercy.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

Jesus uses many images to teach us something about what God is like and what life in God's Reign is like. Here are some of the ways Jesus teaches us about the Kingdom of God and what it is like...



Kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixed in with three measures of flour. All of it was leavened.



The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.



I Believe...

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: OUR DESPERATE NEED FOR GOD'S HELP

(part 3)

Reflections by Fr. Gregory Carruthers, SJ

Sin wounds our very human nature. Some of the wounded effects in us are: we become all wrapped up in ourselves, "my life is about myself". We experience a lack of inner peace and harmony. We get confused about what is right and wrong, and even when we know what is right we sometimes freely choose to do what is wrong. We have malicious thoughts and give in to destructive feelings. Our sexuality is wounded. So is our imagination; we imagine doing sinful things, or we look at degrading images, e.g. internet pornography. We contribute to divisions and hostilities within our families and among groups and nations.

We soon discover we cannot repair ourselves. We desperately need God's help - and we've got it!

It is important to know that even though we do violence to ourselves and to others, we never ever can lose God's gift of being created "in his own image and likeness". Nor do our sins, no matter how deadly or how many, ever put us outside God's mercy. He wants us healed and whole more than we do ourselves.

God never abandoned Adam and Eve when they sinned, nor does he ever abandon us. In fact, God is so moved by the suffering, fear and anguish that our sins have brought into our world and into our lives, that in his great mercy, he decides to do something about it "for us and for our salvation".

What is the Pontifical Mission Society?

By Sr. Rosemary Ryan, RSM

There are four societies under the banner of the Pontifical Mission Society, founded in the 1800s by two lay women and two priests to promote the missionary activity of the Church.

- The **Holy Childhood Association** is meant to nurture a missionary spirit in children.
- **Propagation of the Faith** is meant for adults for the same purpose.
- **St. Peter the Apostle** is to support seminarians so they can complete their studies and then do their part in spreading the Gospel.
- the **Missionary Union** is for missionary priests and religious to support one another. The first three associations encourage prayer and the collection of funds to promote the work of the missions and the fourth is mainly prayer, and spiritual & moral support.

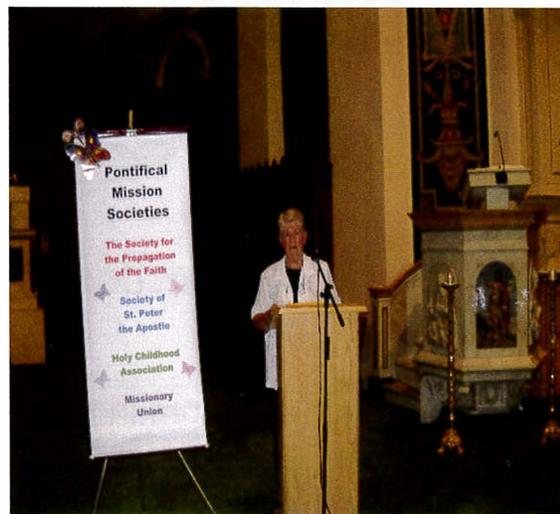
The whole organization really appeals to me and I guess I could see so many parallels with our own mission in Peru. All of our Canadian collections for the Pontifical Mission Societies go to Africa and India whereas the PMS from other countries, such as Germany and France, take care of Latin America. Knowing first-hand how monies given to Peru are used to reconstruct Churches and Chapels, purchase vehicles and train catechists, I can appreciate the work being done in India and Africa. Seeing photos of their projects really touched my heart.

Every year on the third Sunday of October we have Mission Sunday and a collection is taken up for the Mission Societies. This past year coin boxes were delivered to each parish in the Archdiocese to distribute to children in the parishes with the hope this would spark interest, prayer and activities for the missions. Parishes all over the world, even those in developing countries, take up this collection, as all the People of God are called to support the missionary activity of the Church. Every cent received in the special collection on Mission Sunday or in mission boxes must be sent to the Pontifical missions. It can't be used to fulfill a need in our own parish as that would be like stealing from the poor!

John's Gospel (17:3) says: "Eternal life is this, to know you the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent...". By being aware that we are all missionaries we are doing just that, helping others know Jesus Christ.

Visit@ <http://www.missionsocieties.ca/>

Sr. Rosemary presenting
at the Basilica



*A healthy family life
requires frequent use of three phrases:
"May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry"
and
"never, never, never end the day
without making peace."*

Pope Francis

Corporal Works of Mercy

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To visit and ransom the captives
- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To bury the dead

