



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

This Sunday at St. James we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with three adults. What a blessing for them and for the community.

Yourina Martin, Jason Pelep and Tim Sakada will be prayed over and anointed with the oil of Chrism, "Be sealed with the gift Holy Spirit."

Yourina and Jason were baptized as Catholics when they were young. Tim is a convert; he was raised in the Baptist Church and has made a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church. Welcome to all three of you as you complete your sacramental Initiation in the Catholic Church.

This Sunday's scriptures are addressed to us all and in a unique way to Tim, Jason and Yourina. God's word is "ever new," bringing new meaning as our lives continually move forward.

The gospel selection presents two wonderful parables of Jesus. First, the parable of the seed and the sower. "The kingdom of God is like this..." The sower scatters plentiful seeds and waits for the harvest. God plants the seeds of his love and call. In these three being confirmed today, God's seed has taken root and is bearing fruit as it is blessed and confirmed in the community. Hopefully all of us are bearing fruit from the seed of God sown in us as well.

The other parable Jesus gives us today is that of the mustard seed. Here we are presented with an image of a large shrub that provides habitat for birds without reserve. This shrub "grows up and becomes the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade." Mark 4:32

The reign of God has room for all. There are no prerequisites or limitations. "The birds of the sky..." shows no preferences. Anyone coming along is welcome into the reign of God and to find a home there.

Jason, Yourina and Tim have found their place in the reign of God. You and I are privileged to hear this parable and to know that we also are unconditionally welcome into God's kingdom. As disciples of Jesus, it is our responsibility to live and to share the meaning of this parable. We do that in our lives of hospitality in the Lord. We do that in working to see that our parishes, schools, social service agencies and all parts of Church and society are open and welcoming to all. Thus we promote the coming of the reign of God - as Jesus calls us.

~ Peace,

Deacon Ross