

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, our liturgy presents us with the beautiful image of Christ the Sower scattering the seed of His Word across the landscape of our lives. In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God's Word never returns to Him empty; rather, it waters the earth, making it fertile and fruitful.

This Parable of the Sower serves as a perfect reflection on the value of Catholic education, Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. Our primary mission as a Catholic community is to ensure our young people become that "good soil". The environment where we plant our children matters deeply, which is why we must continually champion the irreplaceable value of a Catholic education and active Faith Formation. Our Catholic schools and parish catechetical programs are not just spaces for academic or intellectual instruction. They are sacred ecosystems where minds are nurtured, hearts are formed, and souls are drawn closer to Jesus Christ. By integrating daily prayer, sacramental life, and the Gospel into our young people's routine, we break up the "rocky ground" of modern secularism and pull out the "thorns" of worldly anxiety that threaten to choke their faith.

However, cultivating this rich soil does not end when the school bell rings. Faith must be lived in joyful community. This is why our Youth Ministry is so vital—it provides our teenagers and young adults with a peer community where their unique gifts are celebrated and their hunger for truth is fed. Our youth ministry programs are designed to help teens and young adults build a lasting community, develop their God-given talents, and learn to navigate the ethical and moral demands of the modern world.

I am asking every member of our community to get involved and support our young people. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, volunteer, or parishioner, your prayers and presence are vital. We are called to be fellow sowers, helping the next generation discover the beauty of the Gospel and deepen their personal relationship with Christ. I warmly encourage every family to register for our upcoming Faith Formation classes and get involved in Youth Ministry. Teens are especially invited to join us at Transfiguration Church for the 11:00 AM Mass, immediately following will be our BBQ Kick-Off. Let us work together to remove the rocks and thorns of anxiety and doubt. Together, we can prepare the hearts of our youth to be rich soil, yielding a lifelong harvest of faith, love, and service.

-Fr. Luke