



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 16, 2023 † FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

A month ago, the question was raised as to whether we should return the tabernacle to the sanctuary in Church. Discussions were had with the Adult Faith Formation commission, the Evangelical Charity Commission (formerly Christian service) and staff. In this year of Eucharist Renewal there was strong interest in this significant liturgical change.

Why the change and what does it mean? Following the conclusion of Vatican II, liturgical reforms included Mass in English with the priest facing the people. A more communal aspect of our gathering became the new focal point. Tabernacles were more often located in a side or daily Mass chapel, including space for reservation and adoration of the Sacrament. The focal point of the sanctuary has always been the altar upon which the living sacrifice of the Mass is offered. This remains the case today.

Why move the tabernacle now? Recent movements of liturgical practice have shown a renewed interest in having the tabernacle present in the main sanctuary. Church renovations or new builds are directed to locate the tabernacle in the main worship space. A primary motivation for us is to take advantage of this Eucharistic year of renewal in rebuilding the faith and reverence of the faithful in the Real Presence of the living Christ.

What does this mean for us practically? In the next few weeks, determined by the metrics and preparation needed, the tabernacle will be moved to the center of the main sanctuary space. While the altar remains the central focus as the table of sacrifice, the tabernacle is intended to enrich and focus our attention on the presence of the Lord as we prepare for Mass. This greater reverence and attention will necessarily include a greater reverence as we enter the church. A reverent bow or genuflection is most appropriate. Similarly, greeting one another and talking in church should become softer with attentive awareness of the presence of the Lord among us. Those seeking to pray should be able to do so without intrusive conversations. If it is evident a person is praying, conversations should seriously tone down or move to a more appropriate space.

This does not mean we return to the silence of the 1950's. It does mean that we are aware and attentive to the presence of the Lord as we enter church in preparation for Mass. Greeting one another is an important part of our community life. It should remain so in a quieter and more reverent tone.

Through the course of the year, I intend to preach on

Eucharistic themes that reveal the meaning and power of this living Sacrament of the Lord's presence. One example is that it is not uncommon that when we think of Jesus at Mass, on the altar, or in receiving our personal communion, we imagine Jesus on the Cross or in his dying. This is not wrong, because the death of Jesus on the Cross was real. He was crucified and he died. However, in the sacrifice of the Mass what we consecrate from simple bread and wine is the living, resurrected Christ. On the altar, through the consecration, the real living presence of the risen Lord is made present. He is not dead. He is alive and enthroned in heaven with the heavenly Father.

The risen Christ is no longer limited by time and space. Jesus is now eternal, ever-present in all time and in every place. The holy sacrifice of the Mass makes present the power of Good Friday in the dying of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. On the altar through the calling down of the Holy Spirit, the living presence of the Resurrected Lord is made present. This is the power of the Sacrament that sustains us in faith. As we receive communion, we are consuming, taking into ourselves the living presence of the Risen Christ.

This is not a passive interaction. It is a mutual sharing of communion. As we receive in faith and reverence the living Christ, we are also received by Jesus into himself. This is what makes it communion; the mutual sharing and receiving of the other in a sacred exchange. This is the exchange and interaction of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. It was living and real. Jesus loved his followers and never wanted to leave them. In the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup, Jesus transforms bread and wine into his body and blood in a Sacrament that will endure until the end of the world. This Sacrament is a bond of love and commitment by Jesus that will never be broken. The life and person of Jesus is always with us and never more perfectly than in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Please consider these changes and pray for the graces that will come to us in this exchange. Please pay attention to our upcoming offerings to enrich this year of renewal of the Holy Eucharist. Ask God to bless our gathering with a renewed and shared reverence for Jesus and one another as we enter our sacred space at Mass. Let the seed of the Eucharist that is Jesus, bear fruit in you at thirty or sixty or a hundred-fold. Imagine that! Be Jesus. Be Eucharist for others.

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm

in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm

LIVE
STREAMING

Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and
Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to 10:00am

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday
following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071

248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721

Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm
Closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

**Faith Formation Summer Office Hours:
by appointment 248-542-8720**

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

**For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720**



MONDAY, July 17, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

TUESDAY, July 18, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Deanna req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, July 19, 2023

8:00am Mass: Jane Bischoff req. by Jane McKay

THURSDAY, July 20, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christina Paluch† req. by Sheryl Brown

SATURDAY, July 22, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Norman & Patricia Podgorski† req. by K of C Ladies Auxiliary

Br. Bob Malloy (Blessings on his 60th Anniversary)

SUNDAY, July 23, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Gene Fox† req. by Choir

Paul Halkey† req. by Corrine McCarthy



READINGS THIS WEEK

July 16, 2023

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34—11:1

Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (5a)/Rom 8:26-27/ Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a *relationship*, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Tuesday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
 Thursday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
 Friday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Saturday: St. Mary Magdalene
 Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE SIGN-UP

Individuals/families are needed to sign up to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for one week commitment. Prayers are included with the chalice. Please sign up at the table near the Herbert St. vestibule.



Women's Prayer/ Scripture Study

Saturday, July 22 - 9am
Admin Bldg.



The Holy Spirit is alive and active in our parish community. In response to the Holy Spirit there are requests to begin a Women's Prayer/Scripture study group within the parish. The study group will begin with a seven-week series on meditation and discerning God's word.. Initially, we would like to meet on Saturday mornings at 9am beginning July 22nd. If you find you are being drawn into a deeper relationship with God through the Word, Please call the parish office to register. There is no cost.

SOIL CONDITIONS

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that *it's all about the soil*.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

"...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."

— Isaiah 55:11

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Everyday Stewardship

Over the years I have wasted a lot: a lot of money, a lot of time, and a lot of talent. Sometimes I didn't realize I was wasting these things but, after reflection, I realized I could have done more and accomplished much greater things. Of course, I think that is part of our imperfect humanity. It truly is easier for us to waste our gifts than grow them into something more.

The parable of the sower speaks about the word of God that gets planted in our hearts. If the soil of our heart is rich, than the word will grow and change us. If that soil is rocky or full of weeds, the word will lie there without any impact, bearing no fruit.

This parable can be applied to living a stewardship way of life as well. As sowers, we have been given the seeds of our time, talent, and treasure. We have a choice of where to plant these gifts. As good everyday stewards, we are called to plant them wisely and prudently. Oftentimes it is not enough to simply give away what we have. We need to discern the best places to sow these gifts so the maximum harvest can grow. This takes prayer, reflection, and study. Without a solid discernment process, we can find ourselves sowing seeds endlessly without much to show for it. But joyful is the person who has used one's gifts wisely, for the bounty of the harvest is great.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for... all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.
...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather, earthquakes and disasters
...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.
...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally
...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests.

Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen

ATTENTION MINISTERS

If your ministry involves children or includes contact on a one-to-one basis with the infirmed or elderly as in ministry to the homebound, the Archdiocese of Detroit is requiring recertification in the Protecting God's Children Program. Certification is only valid if received after 2020.

All others must recertify by August 31, 2023 through Virtus online at www.virtus.org If you don't already have an account with Virtus you can create one when you log in. If you have one and can't remember your password or username there is a button that says "i need help logging in"

If you have questions, contact the Parish Office.



Evangelical Service Corner

FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but if you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING JULY 18TH

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:30pm in the church.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION JULY 15 THRU AUGUST 6

Items requested:

backpacks
2 pocket folders
glue sticks & white glue
#2 pencils
pens
pencil cases
scientific calculators
erasers
colored pencils
24 pack crayons
scissors (blunt & regular)
rulers
markers/washable markers
highlighters
composition notebooks
spiral notebooks (wide & college ruled)
looseleaf paper (wide & college ruled)
Trapper keeper for middle & high schoolers



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

WHY USE INCENSE?

Question:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Is 55:10-11

The prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. How might you help friends or family trust more in God?


Second Reading: Rom 8:18-23

Paul sees creation itself sharing in the redemption and future glory that awaits all believers — "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God." What do you imagine earth would look like filled with God's glory, absent any "corruption?"

Gospel: Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Over the next few Sundays, we will be hearing many parables from Jesus. Today's parable of the sower and the seeds speaks to how people react differently to the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. How would you describe your reaction to Jesus's parables of the kingdom?

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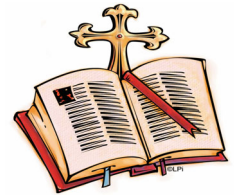
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, OCIA, is a faith journey leading to initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. Is there someone whom you believe that the Lord has placed in your path to bring to Him through the OCIA at this time? If so, be sure to pray for her/him as the Holy Spirit urges you. You may be the link between that person and the gift of the Grace of life in God for her/him. What greater gift can we share with another?

For more information, contact Mary Ann Przybysz in the Parish Office - 248-542-8720.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School



The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday at 9am in the Faith Formation Office of the school building. All men are welcome. No registration is required.

Ministry Schedule		
July 22/23, 2023		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Kairis	A Goll
Reader #2	J McCown	P Miles
EME	T Riley	A Goll
	M Kairis	P Miles
	J McCown	P Allen
Greeters	L Collins	B Turchin
	R Bertolini	J Turchin
	R Pasiak	D Vu
	T Pasiak	P Rarus

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

July 23



The origins of this feast reach all the way back to the Old Testament. In the book of Kings, we read the story of the prophet Elijah. Much of his prayer, fasting, and public ministry occurred from Carmel, a mountain in Israel. Christian hermits -- seeking solitude -- made their homes on the mountain during the first millennium. Over time, the hermits assembled into a community and were given a Rule of

Life. They named their church after Mary -- Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Political upheaval forced the Carmelite order out of the Holy Land and into Europe, where they established monasteries for both men and women across the continent. Many great saints and doctors of the Church have come from the Carmelite order, including St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Therese of Lisieux, and St. Edith Stein.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Pray for us! ©LPi



ST. MARY MAGDALENE - JULY 22

Mary Magdalene has been the subject of speculation and scholarship over the last 2,000 years. Mary Magdalene makes her first named appearance in Luke 8:2. She is one of several women following Jesus. Luke specifically mentions that Mary had previously been delivered from demonic possession. Whatever her life looked like before she met Jesus, it wasn't good! Because of this association with being a repentant sinner, Mary Magdalene has been associated with other similar stories in the Gospel, such as the woman caught in adultery or the woman who bathes Jesus' feet with her tears.

Mary Magdalene shows up again by name at the end of the Gospels, when she stands with the Blessed Virgin Mary at the foot of the Cross. Mary is also present in the garden of the resurrection. She is one of the woman who goes to bring spices to Jesus' tomb, where they find the stone rolled away. Mary stays in the garden weeping, believing his body has been stolen. Jesus approaches her and calls her by name, and she becomes the first witness to the resurrection! While many of the details of Mary Magdalene's life have been lost to time, she is an example of powerful conversion, deep faith, and intimate love for Christ.

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP - WEEK ENDING JULY 1 / 2

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	136		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	6,825.09	1,532.00	1,532.00
Energy	289.00	567.00	278.00	278.00
Other: Coffee/Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles, etc.	\$ 1,115.39	107.00	(1,008.39)	(1,008.39)
St. Vincent de Paul	n/a		n/a	n/a
Mass Intentions	n/a	20.00	n/a	n/a
Special AOD Collections: Peter's Pence	n/a	334.00	n/a	n/a
Holy Days: Peter's Pence	n/a		n/a	n/a
Budget deficit donations		652.00		652.00

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP - WEEK ENDING JULY 8 / 9

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	108		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	5,115.04	(177.96)	1,354.04
Energy	289.00	130.00	(159.00)	119.00
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	82.75	(1,032.64)	(2041.03)
St. Vincent de Paul	n/a			
Mass Intentions	n/a			
Special AOD Collections: Peter's Pence	n/a	200.00		534.00
Holy Days: Assumption	n/a	10.00		10.00
Budget deficit donations		266.00		918.00

 **PUZZLE**

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

farmer	rocky	birds
soil	thorns	choked
root	path	seed

frarme	<u>f</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> <u>m</u> <u>e</u> <u>r</u>
sede	_____
ptah	_____
brisd	_____
rkyoc	_____
tohrsn	_____
rtoo	_____
cohekd	_____
silo	_____



MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY-8:30am and
4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am (livestreamed), 11:30am
4:00pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (*Monday - Friday*)
6:30am (livestreamed), 8:30am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)
50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (StMM)

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin

SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am - St. Justin

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11:00am

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am

WED - 12:10pm

Prayer for Good Fruit

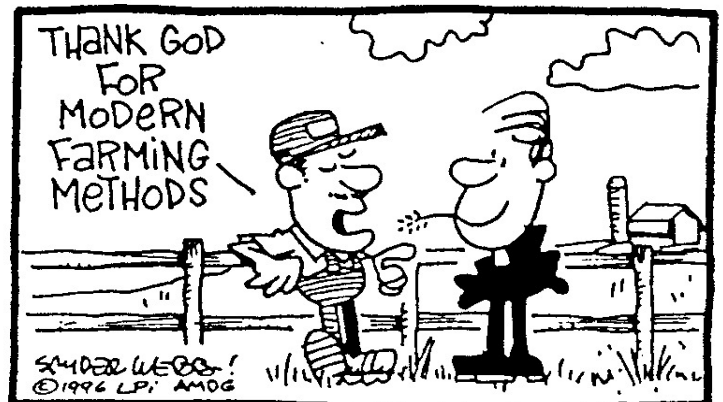
Dear Lord,
Grow your word, truth, identity, and
mission in us.
Inspire us with the fruit you would have
us produce.
Help us to stay close to you.

Amen ©LPI

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We are all sowers in the field. Our time, our money, our attention: these finite resources are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that will bear fruit for the kingdom?
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15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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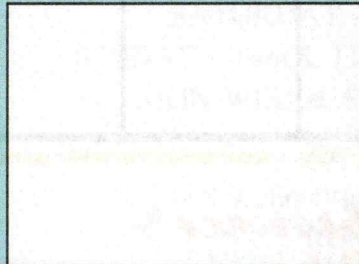
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