

Our readings today all try to explain something to us.

All try to explain what the Kingdom of God is.

The 1st Reading from Ezekiel says the Kingdom of God is the highest tree on a mountain where all the birds and even God dwells.

The 2nd Reading from Corinthians says it is the place where all children shall be taught by the Lord.

And 3rd, the Gospel Reading says it is like a mustard seed...

the smallest of seeds...but from which the largest plant shall grow.

So how do WE explain the Kingdom of God?

How are we going to explain it? What is the Kingdom of God?

Our 1st Reading from the prophet Ezekiel says

that the Kingdom of God is a place

that is better and higher than all other places.

The reading talks about a tree planted high above all other trees

on a lofty mountain where it will bear fruit

and provide shelter for winged creatures.

The kingdom of God is a place of invitation,

a place where we can become more than we ever imagined.

Our Gospel then describes the Kingdom of God

as the place where little things become big things.

It is in the Kingdom of God that a tiny mustard seed

grows into one of the largest trees so that

birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.

Is the Kingdom of God a tree? I don't think so.

Remember Jesus is talking to us using a parable.

A parable is a story used to convey a message

or teach us how to live our lives.

I think at the very heart of the parable of the tiny mustard seed

we are being told that very small things

that we do in our faith can have great and immense rewards.

The smallest things we do can achieve world shaking values.

St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians says,

"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ

so that each may receive a judgment

according to what he did in life ...whether good or evil."

This is about what we do in our lives...

Is it good or bad...big or small...?

It will matter when we leave this body
and go home to meet the Lord.

So, what small things can we do with our mustard seed of faith
so it grows to achieve the Kingdom of God?

I recommend having structured prayer.

Take some time in the morning to offer the day to God
and to ask for his help.

Pray at night to reflect on the day...your successes and failures...
but also thank God for being present in your day.

I witnessed small seeds being scattered
this week at our parish Vacation Bible School.

These Preschool to 5th graders
are the new seeds of faith planted at St. Pius.

These seeds were also nurtured by middle & high school students
that attended this Bible school to help out.

There were also youthful adults that were there to mentor.

How lucky I was to witness this continuation of faith
that was planted by Jesus 2000 years ago.

Think about the small group of 12 Apostles that followed Jesus.

Our Church started out with 12 Dynamic Disciples

and for 2000 years that mustard seed has grown

into a tree that covers the Earth.

All of us are capable of great things started in a small way.

It is the Holy Spirit that moves and guides our growth.

The Holy Spirit has the power to make small things great.

Think of it this way...70% of our planet is ocean.

If you dissect the ocean, it is really made-up of single drops of water,

trillions and trillions of them.

This is also a good time to scatter seeds of welcome

for our brothers and sisters at St. Pius...

those we have not seen here in awhile...

maybe make a personal call or visit.

When your mustard seed of faith grows taller...

maybe you can think about joining the Knights of Columbus or CCW.

This is what this Gospel of the mustard seed has been about

since Jesus taught it to his disciples 2000 years ago.

It is a call to people of faith to grow and love Jesus Christ and his teachings
which has produced a universal tree

that has put forth fruit and shade for all nations on Earth.

God has given you the gift of faith,
and he is so pleased when you use it.