

The members of the Oblate family connect with each other through this prayer on the third Sunday every month.

ORAISON

16th June 2024

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EVANGELIUM LIVE: Mark 4:26-34

It is the smallest of all the seeds and becomes the largest of plants.

In today's Gospel the Lord asks us with these words to let our seeds, our qualities, our gifts germinate, using the metaphor of the Kingdom of God where everything grows and sprouts, even the smallest mustard seed. The Lord asks us to sow seeds in the kingdom of God. For me, sowing is also synonymous with helping those in need, which does not just mean going on a mission to Africa, but also simply helping a grandmother cross the street or being close to a person who is suffering, but also bringing moments of joy and peace, sowing love is perhaps the most beautiful thing a person can do.

Several years ago I had an experience at an Oblate home, a youth center in Marino. I was not alone, there were 16 of us, young people in formation, Oblates and others who wanted to experience the Kingdom of God there as much as I did. The days were always filled with ministry in and out of the house, study, missions, prayers, jokes, time spent in community, and I felt I was flourishing more than ever. Not everything was easy, the house was cold, the weeks were always busy and sometimes you were asked to do things you didn't want to do or couldn't do.



It was only later that one came to understand the beauty of it all, because every moment lived with others, however bad or difficult, was subject to the birth of fruit, whether it was forgiveness, patience or listening.

This experience changed me a lot, I understood that with prayer and God's love even the smallest seed can germinate. Sowing is not always easy, but if you want your plant to bear fruit, persevere.

Pastoral letter of Bishop de Mazenod, 1847

Childhood, old age, the sick, the poor, the worker bent from morning to night under the weight of the workday and the heat, the innocent in peril, the young prisoner, the serious offender hardened in crime, the rich man himself often so helpless before God on his deathbed: charity embraces everything. And when there are new needs, it invents new responses when necessary. All types of good are lavished in the name of Jesus Christ.

Mark 4:26-34

He said, “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.” He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

