

Lent5-B5 Homily by Fr. Gabor

Jesus uses a very simple symbol, the wheat grain, to encourage us not to be afraid of growth and change.

Every small wheat grain contains the potentials of a fully grown plant; a fruit bearing plant. The seed symbolises Jesus and us. Being sown into the ground the process of transformation of the seed begins, the seed becomes a plant; it ceases to exist as a seed, thus the transformation of the seed is a symbol of dying to self-, to self-concern; to self-interest, and being reborn as a new person. This is the natural process of growth, which is meant to be an ongoing process of life.

This natural process is powered by water, which makes the kernel of the seed swell up and break open from the shell which protects it. The water symbolises the living water, the Holy Spirit, who when asked, fills our minds and hearts and gives us the courage and power to break out of our shell and grow into the kind of person God wants us to grow into; a person who is fully alive.

God made us in a way that we are only happy when we grow and change in accord with His plan. To be happy and fully alive is indicated by the fact that we bear fruits, fruits that will last. These are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. The greatest of all these fruit is love as St. Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians (13: 13).

As Christians and in particular Catholics who are nourished through the different graces of God by way of a wonderful wealth of the sacraments we should not be afraid of growth and transformation. The Lord Jesus is there with us showing the path and direction of growth and pouring upon us his Spirit, the Spirit of courage and the Spirit of power for our growth. Age cannot be an excuse from change, because none of us can say I am perfect; I am now a perfect image of God; a perfect image of His love. We should all be on a journey of perfection; though it is true that sometimes we take one step forward and two steps back, but as long as we battle our way through to spiritual growth and perfection we are on our way; we are living and not merely existing. Christ encourages us to believe that not only life,

but death also have a place in God's plan for us, as long as it leads us to a new more perfect life that reflects God's love and mercy ore and more perfectly. So let us be open to grow and bear fruits, fruits that will last.