

The other day I was out walking my dogs, Cooper and JoJo,
I don't normally walk in front of my house but that day I did
And right there between the curb and the street
I saw some weeds growing.
I thought to myself, "I'll have to remember to trim that."

A couple of days later I looked at the scripture readings for today:
The parable of the sower and the seeds---
And I suddenly began to wonder how come God, the sower,
would put seeds in places where it probably wouldn't grow:
why sow seeds on paths, on rocky ground, in shallow soil?

Then I remembered the grass along the curb.
This is not a place where one would expect something to grow,
But there it was.
I remember as a young child,
driving through my mom's home town of Greensburg, IN,
and seeing a tree growing in the top of the courthouse roof.
The roof of a courthouse is not a place
where one would expect a tree to grow, but there it is.

Some time ago I had the privilege of being at
Rocky Mountain National Park---
and there I saw trees growing out of rocks....
Not a place where one would normally see trees growing,
but there they were.

And so I thought back to my original question:
Why does God throw seed where it probably won't grow?
And the answer is simple: Because sometimes it does grow there.
You see we have a God who is generous with the seeds...
God throws it here...God throws it there....God throws it everywhere...
Hoping, just hoping...that maybe they'll take root.

Scripture scholar Jim Taylor proclaims,
"God is not stingy. Every fall God supplies enough dandelion pollen
to color the whole earth yellow, if it all grew.

The parable of the sower and the seeds itself tells us
that God is extravagant and generous.
Any sensible farmer makes sure to plant seeds only in the good soil.

Only God scatters seed on the highways and the parking lots,
Among rocks and in swamps.”

God scatters the word in places we might never have imagined:

In the rocky soil of a murderer named Moses,
God placed the seed and it did not come back empty.

In the hard ground of an adulterer named David,
God placed some seed and it did not come back empty.

In the weed infested heart of a woman named Mary of Magdala---
A woman possessed by seven demons---God threw the seed right in
among those demons and it did not come back empty.

And God also placed seed in the beautiful soil of the heart
of a young virgin named Mary---
God planted seed there and it did not come back empty.

What a breath of fresh air this is for the Church!
I think this is at the heart of the pontificate of Pope Francis.
Plant the seed...throw it everywhere and let God go to work.

Sometimes we get frustrated because everyone “doesn’t get it.”
Sometimes we get tempted to be stingy with the Word,
Preferring to work with the tried and true inner circle of faithful ones...
Because we know that if we plant the Word there,
it will not come back empty.

But guess what?
We don’t have to worry about who gets it and who doesn’t.
It’s really not our concern if the word falls on the rocky soil of deaf ears
or the cement-like soil of a hardened heart.

We are simply called to scatter it.

And, as it was so beautifully noted in the words of Isaiah earlier,
“The word does not come back empty.”

And that, my friends, is good news!