

# *St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*

## *The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

**Sunday, June 17, 2018**

**Mark 4: 26-34**

“Jesus said to the crowds:

“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 through it all 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 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.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

1. Did you have or do you now have a garden? How much do you concern yourself with HOW the plant seeds grow? Do you pat yourself on the back when you harvest a bountiful crop? Did you ever think to thank God for that harvest?
2. Do parables help you understand some of Jesus’ messages? In what ways do these two parables speak to you and help you “Get the message”?
3. Why does the gospel writer tell us about the last line? How does this relate to us? Are we the people that can only understand parables or are we disciples that has had the gospel explained to us?

End with the “**Glory Be**”

**“Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen”**