



What kind of soil is your heart?

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God is good all the time... All the time God is good!

Growing up in Rwanda, there was a cherished tradition that the youngest child in the family would plant the squash seeds, believing it would bring a plentiful harvest. As the youngest, my mother would wake me early each planting season for this special task. Before I planted the seeds, she carefully prepared the soil—removing weeds, loosening the ground, and making it ready to receive the seeds.

While I happily planted the seeds, I knew the harvest depended on good soil, careful cultivation, and God's gift of rain and sunshine. Those of you who grew up on a farm might have had similar experiences.

Whether or not this tradition has any scientific basis, it taught me an important lesson: planting a seed is always an act of hope. You place something small into the ground, trusting that with time, care, and God's blessing, it will bear fruit. This beautifully reflects today's Gospel. In the Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:1–23), God generously plants the seed of His Word in every heart. The question is not about the seed, but about the soil: what kind of soil is my heart? Is it hardened by indifference, shallow in faith, or crowded with the worries and distractions of life? Or is it rich soil that welcomes God's Word and bears abundant fruit? As Isaiah reminds us, God's Word never returns empty (Is 55:10–11), and St. Paul assures us that God is at work even through life's struggles (Rom 8:18–23).

These readings speak to our spiritual lives. Spiritual growth often happens slowly. A farmer does not plant today and harvest tomorrow. Faith also takes time. Daily prayer, Eucharistic adoration, Sunday and daily Mass, the sacraments, and small acts of charity gradually transform our hearts into fertile soil.

As we celebrate this Sunday Eucharist, may we open our hearts to God's Word, trusting that with His grace, it will produce a rich harvest and transform us into missionary disciples.

In parish news, over the upcoming weeks, you will hear about our Generation-to-Generation Campaign, and you may be contacted by one of our parish volunteers. This capital campaign is an opportunity for us to come together to strengthen the future of our local Church, and ensure that our parish remains a vibrant home of faith for generations to come. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can participate. Thank you for your generosity and continued commitment to our shared mission.

This weekend, we will bless the new image of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity at all Masses. May this beautiful image inspire us to grow in prayer, deepen our unity as a parish family, and draw ever closer to Christ through the intercession of our patron saint, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Luis Jimenez as the new Operations Director of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish. (See the opposite page for a short bio). We also extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Mike Parilla for his dedicated service to our parish. We are grateful for his many contributions and wish him God's abundant blessings in his new chapter.

St Elizabeth of the Trinity, Pray for Us!

As Fr. McCarthy always says, "See you in church!"

In Christ,

Fr Deo