

HOMILY 11TH SUN OT YRB 2018

This week I came across some aerial views of different places and I want to share just a few of them with you. [show photos] These aerial pictures give us a different perspective on these places, a perspective that we do not normally get. In fact, we could only see them in recent years with the development of aviation and photography. Before that we would not be able to see this perspective.

In the Gospel reading today Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a man who plants a wheat field. He scatters the seed and then the seed sprouts and grows, eventually yielding a harvest. Jesus points out that we really do not know how the seed sprouts and grows. This is really God's work. We could not do it without him. We can plant, fertilize, water and harvest, but in reality God does much of the work. And we do not see the Kingdom of God's from a distance, like a field of wheat. We see it from the perspective of an individual seed. From the perspective of an individual seed, we may know the surrounding plants, the wheat and weeds. We would be aware of being watered, maybe encounter some rocks in the soil as we grows, but we would not have the perspective of the entire wheat field as we saw today. God has this huge perspective of what the entire universe looks like and how it all fits together. That is a perspective that we just do not have. We see the world from our perspective, our environment, the people that we come into contact with every day, but our perspective is very limited. I think this means that we need to trust God and what he is calling us to do, even if we do not understand why because God has this huge perspective. We need to accept the things in our lives that we cannot change, do our best to work through those challenges, and trust that God will be with us caring for us.

I found the tulip fields in Holland to be absolutely incredible. The reality is that each one of those tulips is a thing of great beauty. When we pull back and see the fields, we have a different perspective which is also a thing of great beauty, but I would not say that it is more beautiful than each of those individual tulips, just a different beauty. It is a bigger picture of the Kingdom of God that we

most likely cannot fully comprehend. Sometimes we see ourselves as just one more tulip in the tulip field and not very important individually. However that is just not true. That is not the way that God sees us. God knows the number of hairs on our head. He loves us unconditionally as an individual. And everything we do matters, everything you do is important. God called us by name from the time he created us and has a plan for each of us in the Kingdom of God. We have free will, the choice about whether or not we will cooperate with that plan.

Sometimes we think that the time we spend with family is more important than the time we spend with friends, the half hour we spend visiting someone who is sick in the hospital is more important than the time we spend fishing. And sometimes we think the short interaction we have with the person in the checkout line in the store is not important at all. The truth is, everything we do matters. Everything we do is important. The interaction we have with someone in the checkout line at the store may be the most significant thing we do all month. The smallest acts of kindness and generosity can be transforming. Sometimes a kind word from a stranger can turn around your whole day. Has that ever happened to you? In my own life there are many people who had a big effect on my life and do not know it. I think about all of the teachers that had a profound effect in my life. I never told them, I probably did not even realize it at the time, but I do now. We all contribute to the Kingdom of God here on earth in many ways that we are not even aware of. Once we realize that everything we do matters, that everything we do is important, it affects the way we live each day. It affects the amount of goodness that we bring into the world. It makes us better people.

While we do not have the big picture perspective of the Kingdom of God now, we do not need it. We just have to realize that everything we do is important, everything we do matters. Make the most of every one of those opportunities.