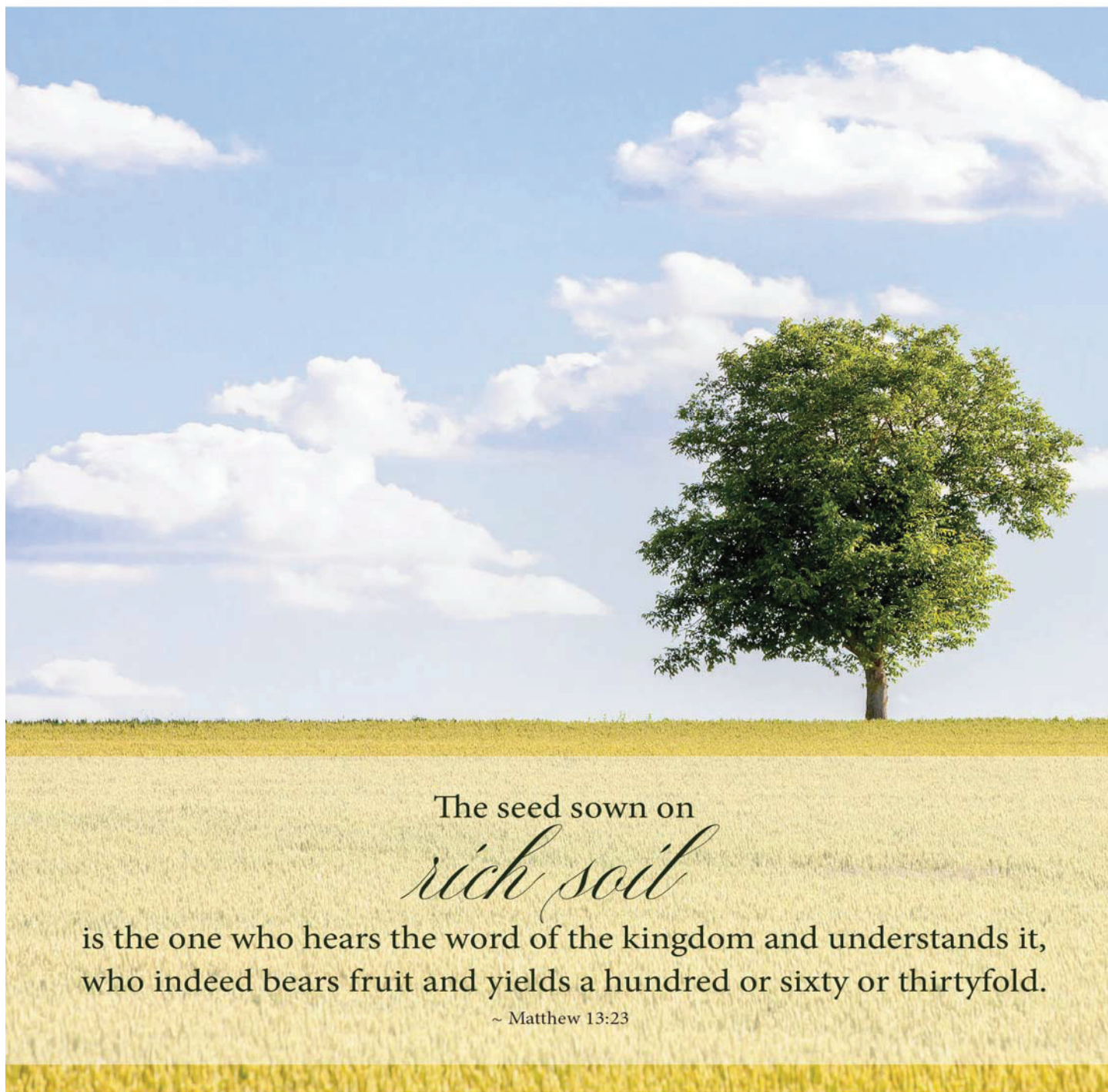


JULY 12, 2020 | FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The seed sown on
rich soil
is the one who hears the word of the kingdom and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.
~ Matthew 13:23

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ST. SYMPHOROSA & ST. RENE PARISH

St. Symphorosa Parish Office
6135 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
(773) 767-1523



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog

Welcome to the Parish of St. Symphorosa & St. Rene!!

Monsignor Thomas Richter approached the podium. After some initial introductory remarks, he spoke words that immediately captured everyone's attention.

"The secret to life is ..." he said. Everyone waited for what words of wisdom came next. "The secret to life is a heart that knows how to receive from God." He repeated the key phrase. The priest had listeners hooked.

Why? Because so many of us want to know the secret to life. Think about it. How many books or videos are sold each year promising to provide the consumer with some special approach to life that is going to make all the difference.

Need proof? Author Rhonda Byrne wrote a book called "The Secret," and it has sold over 30 million copies and it has been translated into 50 languages. Christian author Rick Warren sold 35 million copies of his best-seller "The Purpose Driven Life" and the book has been translated into 70 different languages.

These books sell because we are searching for the secret and for life's purpose.

And yet, Monsignor Richter sums it all up so succinctly. "The secret to life is a heart that knows how to receive from God." The Lord has much He desires to give us but far too often our heart is not receptive. Msgr. Richter spoke these words at the 2016 THIRST conference for the Diocese of Bismark, North Dakota.

Today's Gospel is the Parable of the Sower. We are reminded that a parable is an earthly story about a heavenly reality. God desires to give us divine grace (an unmerited gift). We know there are widely differing responses in people to receiving God's grace. What Jesus is saying in the Parable of the Sower emphasizes a human being's responsibility to be ready to accept God's grace and to respond to it.

This well-known parable is a wonderful illustration of how important the disposition of our heart is when it comes to receiving – or not receiving – from God. God gives grace, and man freely responds to that grace. The result is that those who respond to grace generously receive additional grace and so grow steadily in grace and holiness; whereas those who reject God's gifts become closed up within themselves; through their selfishness and attachment to sin they eventually lose God's grace entirely.

God didn't take away the grace. The unrepentant person gave it away or refused it.

The secret to life is a heart that knows how to RECEIVE from God.

This may come as a surprise to some folks, but God desires to give of Himself in abundance. In John's Gospel (10:10) Jesus says, "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Sadly, we far too often don't view

God's mercy this way. Many folks see God as a competitor, and as a result play a game of win or lose, instead of embracing the win-win grace God desires to give to each one of us.

The Father sent Son into fallen humanity to redeem it and bring it back toward Home. Jesus is the Gift given to us by the Father. He is the Word made flesh that dwelt among us. Christ did not intend for the Good News to be a secret. He gives us (yes, us today) the same Great Commission He gave his apostles.

Jesus says, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

The Word of God must be sprinkled over the earth. And this sowing of salvific seed must first take deep root in each of our hearts. How deep have you received God's love for you?

If there are days you doubt God's love for you, go sit for fifteen minutes in front of a crucifix. Look up and see those wide-open arms, and hear the Lord say to you, "I love you this much."

There's no secret. There's simply Jesus.



Quote of the Week

"He does not love us because we are good, but we become good when and because He loves us."

- Thomas Merton

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Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor Emeritus

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Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-767-1523 (phone)
773-767-6135 (fax)

symphorosa@comcast.net (email)

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Rene Worship Site

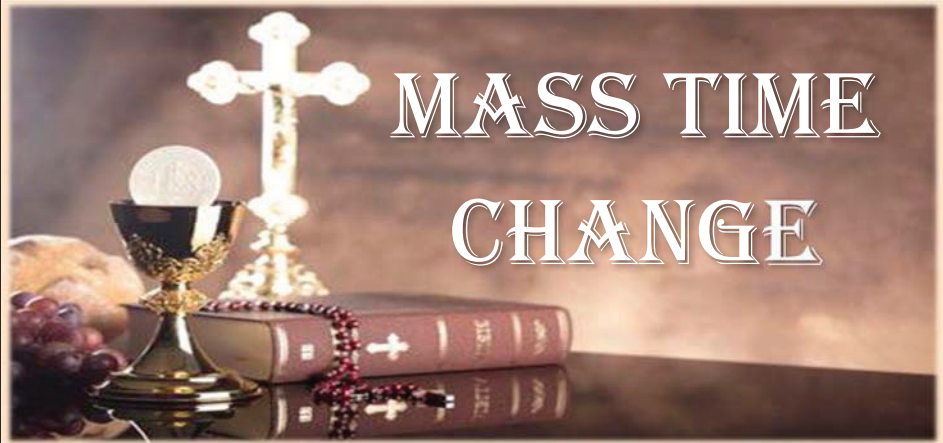
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St. Symphorosa School

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(773) 585-6888

Sacrament of Penance

By Appointment Only
Please call the Parish Office



One of the realities of the newly unified parish of St. Symphorosa & St. Rene is the necessity for a new Mass schedule. Changing Mass times can be one of the most stressful things we experience in parish life. A pastor and his advisors should only make adjustments to a Mass schedule if it is absolutely a must.

Well, the new parish reality makes the altering of the Mass times a must.

Beginning on July 1st, 8am daily Masses will be alternating each month between the two worship sites. In July, daily Mass will be celebrated at 8am at St. Rene Church. In August, 8am daily Mass will be celebrated at St. Symphorosa Church. Please look in the Mass Intentions portion of the bulletin to be sure of which worship site Mass will be celebrated.

The new Sunday Mass schedule begins on the weekend of July 4th and 5th. Please make sure the new Mass times are in a convenient place in your home for reference purposes.

To those folks for whom this change causes great angst or anger, please accept my apology and know I understand. But a pastor has to make decision based on the well-being of the entire parish, not just certain individuals. But, yes, I get it. It will take time to adjust, but we'll walk this road of transition together united by the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As a new parish, we have two options as far as worship site is concerned. Parishioners can participate in Holy Mass at both the St. Symphorosa and St. Rene church buildings. As pastor, I encourage you to make use of both locations depending on what Mass time works for you on a given weekend.

My dream is that in a few years we need to ADD Masses because our pews are full. Right now, that is not the case. Jesus gave us a mission, and this mission prompts us to go, make disciples, baptize and teach. And this is what we'll be doing in the years to come. It's both an exciting time but also challenging. We need one another now more than ever.

Thank you! – Fr. Bob

New Mass Schedule with Worship Site

Saturday (Vigil Mass)

4 PM – St. Rene campus

5:30 PM – St. Symphorosa campus

Sunday

7:30 AM – St. Rene campus

9:00 AM – St. Symphorosa campus

10:30 AM – St. Rene campus

NOON – St. Symphorosa campus

CHURCH REOPENING GUIDELINES

As we progress, we have been given strict guidelines that **MUST** be followed from the Archdiocese of Chicago. The guidelines briefly listed below are for confessions, private prayer and public Masses. Please contact the parish office (773.767.1523) for more information or if you have any questions in regards to the guidelines. Also, please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering to join our Reopening Team.

Mass - Attendance Capacity Restricted to under 20% - Social Distancing

- All Mass worshippers **MUST Pre-register** for a reserved slot, indicating # of attendees (either by changing the quantity or noting the comment sections) and including your first and last name. ***If you miss the opportunity to pre-register for Mass you may still come to church and register upon arrival.***
 - Pre-register via a link provided on our parish website and social media or calling the Parish Office (773) 767-1523.
 - Pre-registration for weekend Masses opens at Wednesday morning prior to the weekend. Registration will stay open through 12pm (noon) Saturday.
- Please arrive at least **15 minutes** before the start of Mass.
- Upon arrival – (**wearing a mask**) check in with a Greeter for seating assignment.
- While not recommended, if you have not pre-registered last minute space MAY be available which would allow late registration on the day of Mass.
- Please be understanding, patient, and courteous throughout this process.

PLEASE NOTE: Dispensation from Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation continues. It is still advised that the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions stay at home and participate through livestreamed and televised Masses. If you are feeling ill or have a temperature please do not come to church.

Guidelines for Confession, Private Prayer & Public Mass Attendance

- Everyone entering the church **MUST** wear face masks the entire time, whether during confession, private prayer or Mass! Hand sanitizer will be provided by the parish and **MUST** be used upon entering the church.
- Trained Greeters will monitor entry, ensure social distancing & direct to appropriate seating.
- Pews and floor will have markings to designate waiting lines, seating, etc. to maintain social distancing

Once again, we are all learning... please be mindful of these guidelines for the safety of yourself and all those around you. We ask for patience and respect towards our greeters and those within our Re-opening Leadership team as they navigate through the first few weeks of this process. We look forward to this opportunity, not only to see some familiar faces again, but to be able to share the Eucharist and worship together within our Catholic faith tradition.

Our Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of July is offered for the following intentions:

For the repose of the souls of John, Mary & Jackie Ferriter given by the Kolasinski Family

For the repose of the soul of Tom Markham given by Family

For the repose of the souls of Gerald & Jeanette Sullivan given by Family

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal presence.



Our stewardship is a combined total from the St. Rene and St. Symphorosa Worship Sites.

Offerings for the weekend of:
Sunday, July 5, 2020
Contribution: \$6,278.50



Split the Pot
June 29, 2020

Received this week: \$65 Winning envelope: #1447

July 5, 2020

Received this week: \$70 Winning envelope: #7042

Reminder: A minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate.



Dates: May 25, 2020 to June 14, 2020
Transactions: 131
Amount: \$4,046.00



WELCOME FAMILIES TO ST. SYMPHOROSA AND ST. RENE PARISH

St. Symphorosa and St. Rene are One Parish!



Faith Formation Office

(773) 767-1523 x226 or

(773) 229-8523

Coordinator:
Peg Siebenaler

UPCOMING EVENTS

7/25 Confirmation Practice
9:30am & 10:30am
St. Symphorosa
Campus

7/26 Confirmation
Ceremony
2pm & 5pm
St. Symphorosa
Campus



FIRST EUCHARIST

On Saturday, June 27th, Our Level Two Students from the St. Rene Campus received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

It was a great celebration. We congratulate all the First Communion Candidates.

Our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the

beauty of this Liturgy.



*Alizé Abarca
Maya Cervantes
Gianna Delgado
Marguerite Dybas
Camila Gutierrez
Enzo Hernandez*

*Sophia Hernandez
Nathan Mora
Chrystian Ostrowski
Samiya Ramirez
Grace Sepulveda
Natalie Sepulveda
Leyla Valenzuela*



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Volunteers ...

We Need You!

"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest". Matthew 9:32-38

Recruiting *Catechetical Ministers* is a year round challenge and, particularly so, when we are approaching a new year of faith formation. The dictionary defines the word ministry as "to give service, care, or aid; to attend to wants or needs". In that sense, all people of good will are ministers. However, for some of us, ministry is a conscious choice that forms an important part of our Catholic identity, helping us grow in our relationship with Jesus.

With these thoughts in mind, we invite you to consider being a *Catechetical Minister* for this coming year. Please give it some serious thought and call Peggy in the Parish Office at (773) 767-1523 ext. 226 or (773) 229-8523 if you are interested. Thank you!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 11, 2020

Saint Benedict, Abbot

4:00pm *St. Rene Church* †Charles Biondo, Sr. (*Diane Biondo*)
5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church* †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Sunday, July 12, 2020

7:30am *St. Rene Church* †Charles Biondo, Sr. (*Diane Biondo*)
9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church* All members of the Cavanaugh & Gusline Families,
Living & Deceased (*Clara Wiatrak*)
†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
†Lerma Magbanua Coronado (*Family*)
†John & Joe Mielnicki (*Mielnicki Family*)
†Leon (*Percudani Family*)
10:30am *St. Rene Church* †Raymond Sutkowski (*Edna Bazik*)
†Louise Gomez (*Family*)
12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church* †All St. Symphorosa and St. Rene Parishioners,
Living & Deceased (46)

Monday, July 13, 2020

Saint Henry

8:00am *St. Rene Church* †Tomassini Family (*Family*)
†Edward Kmak (*Kmak Family*)

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

8:00am *St. Rene Church* †Kathy Arvetis (*Husband*)
†Richard J. Kurek (*Family*)
†Geri Norbut (*Family*)
†John Kolimas (*Mary Kolimas*)

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00am *St. Rene Church* †Lottie Sochacki (*Walter Sochacki*)
†Jack Orsi (*Family*)

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

8:00am *St. Rene Church* †Geraldine F. Kostka (*Family*)
†John & Irene Simonelic (*Simonelic Family*)

Friday, July 17, 2020

8:00am *St. Rene Church* †Marian Tisonczyk (*Wife*)
†Frank & Mary Molisius (*Family*)
†Pamela McMullin-Sullivan (*Nancy Markham*)
†Robert Montgomery, Sr. (*Wife*)
†Bob Kolimas (*Mary Kolimas*)

Saturday, July 18, 2020

Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest

8:00am *St. Rene Church* Health & all the Lord's blessings for Michael Shilney, Sr. &
Lori Shilney (*Mary Shilney*)
†Marion & Theresa Tulik (*Marge Tulik*)
4:00pm *St. Rene Church* †Geraldine Finlay (*McAllister & Neligan Families*)
5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church* †Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
†Dorothy Bogumil (*Ed & Joanne McGriff*)

Sunday, July 19, 2020

7:30am *St. Rene Church* †James Koffend (*Family*)
9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church* Health & all the Lord's blessings for Tyler & Joey Ptaszkowski
(*Fr. Idzi Stacherczak*)
†Melinda Mackey (*Family*)
†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)
†Baldomero Gonzales, Jr. (*Wife & Sons*)
10:30am *St. Rene Church* †Paulette Wilhelmy (*Family*)
†Raymond Sutkowski (*Family*)
12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church* Health & all the Lord's blessings for Sam Lenecon (*Mary Kolimas*)



There are in the end three things
that last: Faith, Hope, and Love,
and the greatest of these is

Martin Adelsbach	Rose Ann Lindsay
Judy Adelsbach	Debbie Lipien
Larry Adkins	Maria & Martinez Family
Guadalupe Almendarez	John Martini
Kim Argires	Marge Masunas
Ignatius Battiato	Lori McCarthy
Elizabeth Bedran	Ed McGriff
Carl Bell	Kenneth Milewski
Mary Bieser	Thomas Minnich
Fr. Ted Bojczuk	Christine Mosqueda
Lydia Brown	Genevieve Nagle
Joanne Bukowiecki	William Nita
Gina Camp	Florence Panzarella
Pat Carmody	Baby Alexander J Pentz
Dominic Ciampaglia	Gi Gi Piccolini
Margaret Ciampaglia	Rochelle Piegari
Michael Clifford	Marilyn Polit
Norma De Stefano	Marie Pratt
Chris Doherty	Joseph Rice
Juan Figueroa	Ann Robertson
Mitchell Gallas	Edward Robertson
Geri Gestaut	Fr. John Rudnik
Carol Gress	Joseph Rudnik
Suzann Gunter	Coltyn Schmidt
Kathy Haars	Kristyn Schmidt
Catherine Hier	Marge Schmidt
Megan High	Judith Siwek
Robert Hilbruner	Elliana Sterk
Heather Hradek	Brian Styka
Denise M. Jandura	Terry Styka
Rich S. Jandura	Michael Tallon
Joan Juris	Sandra Tallon
Pete Kats	Mary Thorpe
Lee Karpinski	Scott Tloczek
Dennis Kline	Shirley Tloczek
Walter Kokoszka, Sr.	George Trendle
Claudia Kwiłosz	Judith Webber
Norman Kwiłosz	Joan Wilhelmy
James Lapsansky	Richard Zaleski
Maryann Larson	Barb Ziegler
Donna Lauritzen	Michelle
Domenico Lepore	

Due to privacy laws, names may only be added to our prayer list by immediate family. Please let us know when to remove a name.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Sgt. Jaime A. Acosta, USMC	Anthony Johaniewicz, US Navy
Sgt. Ted Bartelmey	Corporal Noah M Konie, USMC
CS-1 Joel Battung	Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
1st Sgt. Chas Berglund, USMC	Trevor Lutz, US Army
Sgt. Naveen Babba, USMC	Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
Sgt. Arthur A. Boruch, National Guard	Private Joseph M. Mikutis, USMC
Hospitalman Blythe A. Cisneros, USN	Pvt 1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
Airman Carlos Cisneros, USAF	SPC Alex Ramos
Sgt. Frank Cisneros, USMC	Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
Corpsman Nicholas J. Cundari-USN	WO-1 Richard Sobeske, US Army
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Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard	1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG
Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF	
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army	



In today's Gospel, we hear the story of the sower and we know that "some seed fell on rich soil, and produce fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty fold."

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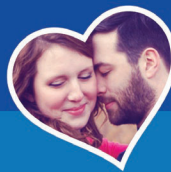


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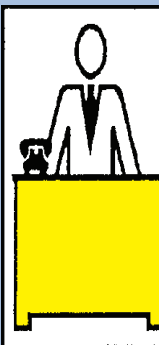
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