

At Seedtime

I've been a member of Bread for the World for many decades and have supported their work that promotes legislation to put an end to hunger. One of the tenets the organization holds is that we have enough food to end world hunger, but what we don't have is the will to end world hunger. We have not taken sufficient action to provide the infrastructure that will make a difference both here in the United States and around the world.

Food is a gift from God. For timeless ages people have appreciated this. Many authors of the bible came from farming communities. Jesus himself showed tremendous familiarity with the worlds of agriculture, shepherding and fishing. People of his day knew very well you needed hard work combined with the marvels of nature in order to put food on the table. All the labor in the world still needs something more to provide food: Seeds. Seeds are a gift from God.

St. Paul says in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, "The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness." Paul is speaking about more than crops. He's addressing the seeds of our faith, the way we live in society, promote justice, and spread the gospel.

Today's blessing of seeds represents our gratitude to God for providing what we need. God does this especially through the wonders of nature that contribute to the growth of crops. But today's blessing also represents our acceptance of the challenge to scatter seeds, water them, and protect the crops they produce.

We are all beneficiaries of other people who have given thanks and accepted this challenge. We eat plants grown from seeds we did not sow and from farms we did not harvest. Too often we take advantage of the labors of others and of the earth God created. As we learn of ways to support farmers, to eat responsibly, and to protect the plants and trees around us, let us also promote legislation that will achieve these goals.

Hunger is not just a physical yearning; it is a spiritual yearning. As Paul says, "God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work." Let us use our abundance, the seeds of our faith, for the good work that will protect the good earth.