11B 2021 SFTC

It might be hard to believe, but many of us here were born in a time when you had to ride in the back of the bus if

your skin was the wrong color. That was the law in some parts or our country. Even if the bus was empty.

If the seats in the back were full, too bad. You had to stand, even if there were empty seats up front.

Usually, you paid in the front then had to go around and use the rear door, and hope they didn’t drive away.

And if more white people got on the bus, you had to give up your seat.

Then one day, Rosa Parks got on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was tired after a long day of work.

She took her seat toward the rear of the bus. Then more white people got on and told her to give up her seat.

She refused, so she was arrested and taken to jail. She wasn’t thinking about a revolution that day.

She said, “I was just plain tired, and my feet hurt.” But she inspired a revolution by this small, peaceful act.

This tiny seed she planted.

Word spread like wildfire. A meeting was held where a young preacher named King spoke.

They decided to boycott the city busses, since they made up 70% of the passengers.

This lasted almost a year. Sidewalks were flooded with people walking to work, a real hardship in the winter.

There was more hardship. The leaders were all arrested. Dr. King’s home was bombed.

But this nonviolent revolution bore great fruit.

The Alabama Supreme Court struck down segregation laws.

The cause of justice took a huge step forward, and it spread across the country.

Rosa Parks had no idea what she was starting that day. The same can be true for us.

One act of kindness or mercy or charity can inspire a huge change in the life of another.

And if it spreads, it can change our culture. It can change the world.

Jesus tells two parables in our Gospel today.

1. A tiny mustard seed becomes a huge plant, providing shelter and comfort for God’s creatures.

A tiny seed is planted, but the result is tremendous growth.

2. A man scatters seed on the soil, but how it sprouts and grows...he has no idea.

It’s up to us to plant the seeds. God takes care of the rest.

We all have areas in our lives that are in need of new growth. I certainly do.

When will we take that first small step? What’s holding us back?

Jesus said in another place: “Fear is useless. What is needed is trust.”

We all know that there’s great injustice and suffering around us.

What seed will I plant this week to help change things for the better?

We need to do what we can, and not be discouraged by the size of the challenge...

...and to remember that we’re not doing it on our own.

(I can’t help but mention CSA in this context. The Catholic Services Appeal.

Pooling our generosity together across the diocese allows us to make a real difference in the lives of others.

There’s still time to get on board.)

St. John XXIII lived during the same time as Rosa Parks. He would pray at the end of the day:

“Lord, I’ve done what I can today. It’s your Church, the pope is going to bed.”

Mother Theresa was asked if she ever got discouraged. She and her sisters helped so many people,

yet there were still so many that she couldn’t help. Didn’t she get discouraged?

She said, “Oh no. God doesn’t expect us to always be successful. He asks that we be faithful.”

We all face challenges and discouragement in our own lives, and in the world around us.

Do we trust in God’s Grace to bring about new growth?

It takes time and patience, like planting a garden. And it doesn’t always turn out the way we want.

We have no guarantees in this life.

But one thing is certain. Nothing will grow unless a seed is planted.