

Tree of Righteousness: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn

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**Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10;
Mark 4:26-34**

Through the oracles of the Prophet Ezekiel, God gave his people reason to hope. It would have been a cryptic message to his hearers, long centuries before the Lord's coming. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross, on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the Chosen People of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as he solemnly promises at the conclusion of the passage from the prophet.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so we express our gratitude in the Responsorial Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good to give thanks, and better still to give thanks with praise. The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the cross as the measure of righteousness.

The cross is a challenge to those who would rather "flourish" according to worldly terms. It is a sign of contradiction. And so Saint Paul repeatedly emphasizes, to the Corinthians, the necessity of courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. The Apostle reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifested itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

Faith. Courage. God himself will empower the works he expects from us; though we may freely choose to correspond to his grace.

In the prophetic oracles, in the Psalms that were sung in Jerusalem, he scattered the small seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had foretold.

He gave this doctrine to the disciples, as he still does today, in terms they were able to understand, and he provided a full explanation. In the sacraments he provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
June 13th – June 21st, 2015

Sat. June 13th 4:30 p.m.	Immaculate Heart of Mary Maria Antonia Fancony – RIP – by Antonio Gaspar
Sun. June 14th 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Frank Galinski – RIP – by the Ladies' Auxiliary Sal Lancione – RIP – by the family
Mon. June 15th	NO MASS
Tues. June 16th 7:00 p.m.	Weekday Leonardo Papa III – RIP – by the Be My Disciples Catechists
Wed. June 17th 9:00 a.m.	Weekday Thanksgiving by Bryan Sorono
Thurs. June 18th 9:00 a.m.	Weekday Thanksgiving by Denise Lachance
Fri. June 19th 9:00 a.m.	Saint Romuald Victorino Lanzaderas – RIP – by Tommy, Emma and family
Sat. June 20th 4:30 p.m.	Weekday Deceased and Living Members of the Rodrigues Family – by Leo and Lavinia

Sun. June 21st

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bruna Alesi – RIP – by her
parents

Vicente and Leoncia Comia –
RIP – by Jessilyn, Sherman
and family

Collection:

June 7, 2015 - **\$2,981.00... Thank you for your
generosity.**

Counters:

June 14, 2015 – Kevin Smith and Gayle Jaroslowski

June 21, 2015 – Rose Mangahas and Emma Lanzaderas

Fatima Mini Spring Sale and Bake Sale

Come and visit our Mini Spring Sale and Bake Sale on **June 13th**, Saturday, at 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. and **June 14th**, after the 9 A.M. and 11 A.M. Masses. Lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome. For information, contact Geri at 514-335-8683 or Carolyn at 514-747-0735.

Be My Disciples News

First Communion – The following children received the First Communion last Saturday, June 6th, at the 4:30 P.M. Mass:

Archael Angelo Ampig, Abbilongo Bertley, Princess Czarina Dizon, Ethan Lorien Godfrey, Everett Godfrey, Luca Gordon, Raven Gutierrez, Rafael-Dwayne Hernandez, Luke Iannotti, Marielle Kandaloft, Maria Aida Koutsogilas, Simon Kwan, Genelle Landicho, Mark Ephraim Michael, Esteban Picone, Davide Romano, Bea Rose Sanchez, Joeree Sasana, Nathaniel Zoltan Costa Simo, Karl Mikhail Soliven-Bergantinos, Erika Sotelo, Kaira Sotelo, Francheska Ejil Tampilic, Matteo John Tanyan-Farraggi, Sean Deirren Tiongson, Lucia Trenado, Brianna Lindsey Urnos, Sophie Vernier, Shaina Vale, Allyssa Mae Villahermosa and Adam Daniel Walsh.

Congratulations!

The **REGISTRATION** forms for Be My Disciples for **September 2015** are ready. **ALL children** of the Parish **must be registered in this faith transmission and education program.** The children

who are currently in the Be My Disciples program are taking the new registration form home. All other parishioners, who have children between the ages of Kindergarten and Junior High, please inquire at the office or call Connie Kuhr for information. Please register immediately so that we can plan (order books, get Catechists, form groups, etc.) for next year. The **DEADLINE is June 28, 2015**. Registrations after that date will be charged a late fee of \$25.00 per person.

World Youth Day Orientation

A World Youth Day Orientation, sponsored by the Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Montreal, will be held on Saturday, June 20th, 7:00 P.M. at Saint Kevin Parish. All young adults (18-35 years old) are invited to attend.