



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee July 2026

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

Summer has come, and here in the North Temperate Zone, the summer coincides with the Green of Ordinary Time. The seed has been planted and the green shoots are springing up. So it is with our hearts. The big feasts are past...Advent and Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter, Pentecost Trinity and Corpus Christi. Each of them have planted deep seeds of mysterious truths in our hearts, and now they need to grow. The scriptural texts of Ordinary Time bring the Son that is going to tease them up.

Watch for this challenge of these truths in the weeks ahead. Holy Elder the Church is going to 'water' them Sunday by Sunday, and the Risen One will come personally as Gardener to make them grow. The Gospel verse will name them, and the middle reading will explain them. Then the first reading will show them as God planted them in the First Covenant. The Gospel will then reveal them as they grow in the New Covenant in Christ Jesus.

Yes, this is how your heart-garden will grow...and its fruits will begin to show. Wherever you walk and talk the Kin-dom will come...little by little...person to person, place to place. It will come in the daytime of your joy and in the night of your tears. This is Ordinary Time in our very ordinary lives.

So Ordinary Time is not so ordinary after all...?
All those phone conversations...the cooking and baking...
the shopping and driving, the laundry and cleaning...
the loving and the forgiving?
Is something growing that I cannot see?
Is it a partnership, Lord, between you and me?
Is that how the Kin-dom comes, so gently like the dew?
Then count me in and keep me true
to the task. Amen.

Thank you to S. Kathy Slesar for this month's reflections.

July 5, 2026 | 14th Sunday Ordinary

Time | Matthew 11: 25 – 30

Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.

A burden is something that is borne with difficulty and weighs us down. What weighs you down? What will help you to rest with Jesus and give your burdens to him?

July 12, 2026 | 5th Sunday Ordinary

Time | Matthew 13: 1 – 23

A sower went out to sow. Some seed fell on rocky ground. Some fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.



The sower scatters seeds with reckless abandon, without concern for where they land. Some seeds land on rocky ground, some land on good soil. What rocky ground impacts your faith? What good seed do you scatter that bear fruit?

July 19, 2026 | 16th Sunday Ordinary Time | Matthew 13: 24 - 43

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. Or it is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field.

What good seed is in you? How do you share your good seed?
What helps your faith to grow?

July 26, 2026 | 17th Sunday Ordinary Time | Matthew 13: 44- 52

When a merchant finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

What is your pearl of great price? What treasure is God inviting you to uncover at this time in your life? Are you willing to risk all for God? If so, what does that look like?