

## At Seedtime: Celebrating a Diocesan Day of Prayer

February 4, 2020

The Church's *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar* state: "On Rogation and Ember Days the Church is accustomed to entreat the Lord for the various needs of humanity, especially for the fruits of the earth and for human labor...{45}."

In the past, the Church marked certain times of the year with Ember Days and Rogation Days. These included prayers for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time, as well as prayers for the Blessing of Fields and Gardens.

Dioceses all over the country are free to establish their own supplementary days of prayer. This day is one of several for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, which has designated February 4, 2020 as a Diocesan Day of Prayer: **At Seedtime**.

As the planting season begins in late winter or early spring, it is traditional for gardeners and farmers to seek God's blessing on their seeds and crops. We ask God's protection for seeds (or young plants) in our gardens and fields. Seeds represent a microcosm of all life. By our prayer, we acknowledge God's control over creation and our stewardship of it.

A Blessing Service is shown on the reverse side. Taken from the resources listed below, it includes scripture, prayers, and songs. Households and parish groups are invited to use it whenever appropriate.

- **Book of Blessings (full & abridged editions); Catholic Book Publishing Co.**
  - Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time
- **Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers; U.S. Catholic Bishops**
  - Rogations Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens
  - Assumption Day: Blessing of Produce
- **Laudato Si'; Pope Francis #246**
  - A prayer for our earth
  - A Christian prayer in union with creation
- **Roman Missal; Mass for Various Needs and Occasions, #27 At Seedtime**



## Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

### Introduction

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us praise God, who plants the seeds and reaps the harvest. Blessed be God for ever. **R.** Blessed be God for ever.

**Leader:** Today we seek God's blessing of these seeds and the crops they will produce. Christ reminds us that, unless the seed is planted in the earth and dies, it will not yield fruit. As these seeds grow and are cared for, may they be signs of the new life from God. *{Book of Blessings 992}*

### Scripture Reading (suggestions)

Genesis 1:1, 1-12, 27-31      Deuteronomy 28:1-6      Isaiah 55:10-13      Joel 2:21-26  
2 Corinthians 9:6-10      Matthew 13:31-36      Mark 4:26-29      Luke 12:16-21      John 12:23-25

### Intercessions *{Adapted and abridged from Book of Blessings 979}*

Almighty God look with benign providence on your children; give us nourishment and growth by blessing the earth with the fruitfulness that sustains human life. As your children, we pray to you by saying: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

- You bless the earth and abundance flows in its pastures; grant that by your blessing, our fields may yield the food we need. **R.**
- You make the wheat grow that provides our daily bread and the gift of the eucharist; give us a crop made rich by abundant rain and fertile soil. **R.**
- You feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field; teach us not to worry about what we are to eat or drink or wear, but to seek first your way of holiness. **R.**
- You have told us that Christ is the vine and we are branches; grant that by living in your Son we may produce much good fruit. **R.**

### Conclusion

O God, from the very beginning of time you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and fruit of every kind. You provide the sower with seed and give bread to eat. Grant, we pray, that this land, enriched by your bounty and cultivated by human hands, may be fertile with abundant crops. Then your people, enriched by the gifts of your goodness, will praise you unceasingly now and for ages unending. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen. *{Book of Blessings 982}*

### Closing Song (suggestions) *{from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers – used with permission}*

#### A. (Sung to the tune of "All Creatures of our God and King")

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Dear mother earth, who day by day | The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,             |
| Unfolds rich blessing on our way, | Let them his praise abundant show.                    |
| O praise God! Alleluia!           | O praise God, O praise God,                           |
|                                   | Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. (St. Francis of Assisi) |

#### B. (sung to the tune of AR HYD NOS ["All Through the Night"])

|                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| For the fruits of this creation,      | In the just reward of labor,          |
| Thanks be to God;                     | God's will is done;                   |
| For the gifts to ev'ry nation,        | In the help we give our neighbor,     |
| Thanks be to God;                     | God's will is done;                   |
| For the plowing, sowing, reaping,     | In our worldwide task of caring       |
| Silent growth while we are sleeping,  | For the hungry and despairing,        |
| Future needs in earth's safe keeping, | In the harvests we are sharing        |
| Thanks be to God.                     | God's will is done. (©F. Pratt Green) |