

# SAID ED November 12, 2017

## Compost

Compost. It's wonderful stuff. For the last few weeks as the good weather continued, I have been in the backyard getting ready for winter. One of my tasks is tending to the compost pile. Every few weeks, I turn it over with a pitch fork, thus allowing it to breathe and continue the decomposition process. This also keeps it from stinking. Into our compost heap go all the kitchen vegetable trimmings and scraps as well as grass cuttings and weeds. I learned the hard way that putting in meat morsels invites the local animals to rummage through the compost.

With patient persistence, the compost follows the course of nature and the decomposition process eventually yields rich dark humus-like soil. This can, in turn, be worked into our gardens. It is very good organic fertilizer and is "all natural," as so many labels say today. Composting is an art and a science. One can learn a lot from the composting process.

I was shoveling the finished product into containers so that I could spread it around the gardens when it occurred to me how much life is like composting. We all have our painful experiences in life. Brokenness is part of being human. We have all had our share of failures and disappointments in jobs, family life, and relationships. We can let these realities weigh us down and embitter us; keep us feeling bad about ourselves, guilty and discouraged. Or we can compost our troubles! We can put our pain and struggle on to the compost pile of life and let these things decompose. "Time heals all wounds," goes the old saying. We can let the sadness of life help us appreciate the joys of life. Composting our grief can help us learn from our mistakes and failures. It also gives us more compassion.

We can spread the richness of our composted failures upon the present moment of our lives and thus be renewed. We Christians call this wonderful process the Paschal Mystery. We believe that life and death is part of our faith. We believe that, just as the compost dies and becomes something new and wonderfully useable after being transformed, so it is with us. And Jesus has led the way for us. We are not alone. "Unless a grain of wheat goes into the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat." By composting our pain and sorrow, we become a new creation in the image and likeness of God.

You can learn a lot from composting. I recommend it highly.

Thanks to all who have made their Catholic Ministries Appeal pledges thus far. To date, we have received pledges in the amount of \$126,619, or 5.48% toward our goal of \$228,221. As you know the CMA is the principle funding source for the many ministries of the Diocese of Rochester. It provides the funds for us as a local church to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy which are an essential part of the Gospel message. If you have not done so already, please make your pledge to the CMA this week.

Have a great week!

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