

# Lenten Reflection

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“Therefore, I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” [Matthew 21:43]

The Gospel today made me think about whether we, as a church, are a people that will produce the fruit of the Kingdom of God. Yes, we attend mass, and yes, we pray. But will that produce the fruit that Jesus is talking about? The blossoms of a tree have to be pollinated before they will produce fruit. Are we studying God’s Word and reading our Bibles? Are we choosing to follow the Holy Spirit? It takes practice and a great measure of faith to become a people that will produce the Kingdom’s fruit. Yet pollination is only the beginning. We also have to “produce” fruit. How do we do this? Pope Francis reminds us to recall the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to harbor the homeless; to visit the sick; to visit the imprisoned; to bury the dead. These Works are truly the fruit of the Kingdom of God and His great Mercy. Yet how many of these are we, as a church, doing? How many are you personally doing?

The Lenten journey is one of introspection and pollination. It should also be an outward manifestation of the Kingdom of God. The Works of Mercy are surely God’s fruit waiting to be picked! Let us praise God and be worthy of the Kingdom by becoming “a people that will produce its fruit.”