

July 28, 2008
Monday of the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Jeremiah 13:1-11

Deuteronomy 32:18-19, 20, 21

Matthew 13:31-35

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

Several years ago, we planted three small shrubs at the back of our yard. In fact, they looked more like sticks than shrubs. Every year I watched them, wondering when they would ever grow. Just a few days ago, I looked out the window and was surprised to see the shrubs full and tall. They were all we had hoped for and more. As I think about those shrubs in light of this gospel, I wonder about the seeds planted in me, I wonder if they will grow like the shrubs or like the mustard seed in this parable? I wonder what choices and changes I need to make to nourish them so that I might grow in love and contribute to God's plan for the world?

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves.

St. Francis De Sales