



BE BOLD

IN SPREADING THE FAITH



Story by **BETH SCHUELE**

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going." (Jn 3:8)

We **ARE ALL FAMILIAR** with the parable of the sower whose seeds land on rocks, among thorns, or on fertile ground. Depending on where a seed lands, it sprouts, is choked, or is fruitful. But let us for a moment pay attention to the sower. He is not focused on planting only in fertile soil where it will surely grow. No, instead he scatters the seed indiscriminately, not concerned with where it lands.

When evangelizing from afar it can feel a bit like that. We scatter seeds, but we don't see where they land or even if they grow. And yet, they do grow; this is what I've learned while co-hosting the podcast *Stories from the Street*.

During one podcast, I tossed a seed out, and it floated across the ocean and landed in the United Kingdom, into the heart of Mary, one of our listeners. Mary was struggling with her faith. She had been away from the Catholic Church and was feeling a call to come back. In response, she listened to Catholic podcasts such as ours. One day, she went a step further and sent us an email. The seed from our podcast was germinating.

Mary and I started corresponding by email. She shared her story with me. She knew that she needed to go to the Sacrament of Confession. However, the thought terrified her.

As an evangelist, it is a blessing to coach someone back to Confession. I often use the metaphor of the garbage man. He takes away everyone's garbage. He doesn't pick through it; he doesn't judge it and doesn't compare it with someone else's. It is the same with Confession. The priest is not judging or comparing your sins; he is getting rid of them.

I continued encouraging Mary and interceding for her. Soon I got that email I was praying for: "Beth, I did it! It didn't go as I rehearsed it, and I cried a lot, but the

priest was so understanding. Feel so happy! Thank you." What wonderful news!

I praise God as I reflect on this experience and marvel at how He orchestrated the entire encounter. God's timing is perfect! He tilled the soil of Mary's heart with the desire to return to the Church and then placed our podcast in her path. To think that God would use my simple words to help Mary is humbling.

Fr. Bob Bedard, CC taught us to "Give God Permission." God's power transforms our "yes" into glory for His Kingdom. Be bold in spreading the seeds of faith as you fulfill the mandate from Jesus to share the Gospel far and wide (Mt. 28:19).

May the seeds you sow bear much fruit. 🌾

Stories from the Street is a podcast for Saint Paul Street Evangelization to share real stories about evangelizing in the community. <https://streetevangelization.com/stories-from-the-street/>



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Spread seeds of faith:

GENEROUSLY

DO NOT BE CONCERNED THAT YOUR SEEDS MAY NOT FALL ON FERTILE SOIL. YOUR EFFORTS ARE NEVER WASTED. SEEDS SPROUT AND GROW, AND WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW HOW. (MK 4:26-28)

CONFIDENTLY

YOUR WORDS DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT. GOD WILL USE THEM TO REACH SOMEONE. IT'S OUR JOB TO SOW AND WATER THE SEED; GOD CAUSES GROWTH. (1 COR 3:6-7)

PRAYERFULLY

STAY CLOSE TO GOD AND INTERCEDE FOR THOSE YOU ENCOUNTER. IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO CONVICTS HEARTS AND WHEN WE SOW IN THE SPIRIT, WE WILL REAP FROM THE SPIRIT. (GAL 6:8)