

In the Malheur National Forest in Oregon, there exists what is called the World's Largest Organism. It is a species or the "shoestring fungus" formally known as *Armillaria ostoyae*. Affectionately called "the Monster Mushroom," or according to a USDA pamphlet, "The Humongous Fungus," this particular organism is around 2,000 years old; covers 2,385 acres; and is estimated to weigh up to 35,000 tons. It existing underneath the decaying matter on the forest floor.

Scientists aren't sure how these monster mushrooms get to be so large. And while they are enormous and very ancient - they are mostly hidden from sight.

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar parable of the sower and the seeds from Mark's Gospel.

In reflecting on this parable, we can ask ourselves where do we see ourselves in this parable? Are we the sower? The seeds? The plants? The weeds?

Indeed, after hearing our Lord articulating the meaning of the parable to the Apostles, we may still be confused as to where we are in relation to all the parts of the story.

But, what is more important than our own affinity for agricultural analogy - is to realize that wherever we might see ourselves, that God's grace is what sustains us; and inasmuch as we surrender to the action of His grace - we have the potential to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the graces we need to be fruitful in our work of evangelization. Whether we are a small sprout or a humongous fungus - God has called us, and God will use us ... according to His Will, and within His plan for salvation.