

Prophets of a future not our own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime
only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme
accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives
includes everything.

That is what we are about.

We plant a seed that will one day grow.

We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations
that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that.

This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.

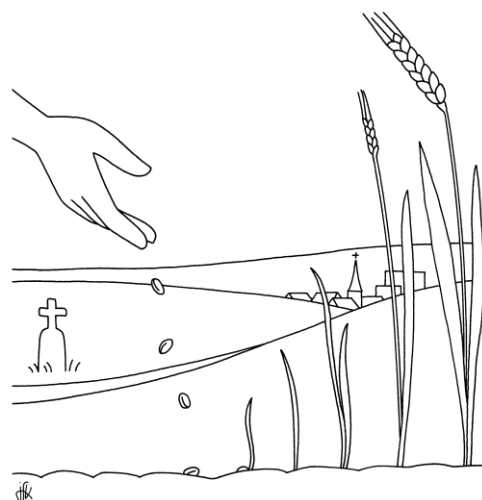
It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning,

a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.



*Bishop Kenneth Edward Untener
(often attributed to St Óscar Romero)*



SYNOD 2020

Synod Prayer Book