

Mission Educators Bulletin

Connecting Us in Mission

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Fertility, Abundance and Growth

There is a rhythm as the active growth of spring and summer is quieted by the much needed and necessary dormancy of fall and winter. When we begin to plant a garden this time of year, whether it be an assortment of vegetables-heirloom tomatoes, carrots, peppers, lettuce, herbs- or bright and beautiful annuals- zinnias, sunflowers, poppies and morning glories-we usually begin with a clear idea of what we will plant, how many we will plant and how we will care for all that we have planted. Living in Minnesota, we cannot know for sure if there will be too much or too little rain; snow and frigid temperatures until the end of May; which seeds will actually grow and do well; what furry or winged critters might eat the seeds and if there will even be any produce left to harvest. I found that raised beds made from my grandpa Ervie's old galvanized stock tanks from the farm made the best containers for me to plant everything in. We can hope and plan and work very hard to ensure that we provide the best environment for our garden, but everything inevitably is moved by forces beyond our control. Our faith life is truly a metaphor to these gardens that we plant, water, fertilize and cultivate year after year. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn. 12:24). Jesus reminds us over and over through His crucifixion that all things must die, and that through His resurrection all things will be reborn. Jesus is our Master Gardener- we are cared for, we are safe, we are loved. Enjoy the harvest of your life for you are blessed.



Below are examples of labels that can indicate an item as Fair Trade. To know for sure, it's always best to research the company and/or the product.



Whatever is foreseen in joy must be lived out from day to day.

Vision held open in the dark by our ten thousand days of work.

Harvest will fill the barn; for that the hand must ache, the face must sweat.

And yet no leaf or grain is filled by work of ours; the field is tilled and left to grace.

That we may reap, great work is done while we're asleep.

When we work well, a Sabbath mood rests on our day and finds it good.

Wendell Berry

Dates to Remember:

1st: International Worker's Day

5th: Cinco de Mayo

9th: **World Fair Trade Day**

10th: Mother's Day

25th: Memorial Day & National Missing Children's Day

26th: Pentecost

Fair Trade is a commitment to a fairer world— ensuring that people who make and grow products have a place to sell them, that they're fairly paid, and that their working conditions and communities are healthy.

<https://fairtrade-advocacy.org/>

<https://www.serrv.org/>