

*Week One*  
*Sowing the Seed*



Listening to the Word of God

Parable of the Seed: (Matthew 13:4-9)

One day a farmer went out sowing. Part of what he sowed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Part of it fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it began to wither for lack of roots. Again, part of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked it. Part of it, finally, landed on good soil and yielded grain a hundred –or – sixty – or thirtyfold. Let everyone heed what he hears!



Listening about Catherine

Planting the seed: (Praying with Catherine pgs.16, 17)

Catherine's early years reflected the careful seeding of Catholic upbringing. Her father, James McAuley, was an ardent practitioner of his faith and, it would appear, a shrewd entrepreneur. .... Catherine cherished memories of her father as a sensitive and generous man who gathered the children of the neighbouring slums around the tree in his front garden to teach them the mysteries of their faith. Her mother, thirty years younger than her husband, was lovely, charming and gracious. She was also somewhat pampered by her husband and family and quite unprepared for the responsibility of single-parenting that James's death in 1783 thrust upon her.

Although Elinor saw to the sacramental education of her children (the Eucharist and Confirmation), she neglected the full practice of Catholicism and offered little resistance to the sharp criticism of her faith offered by Anglican and Protestant friends and relatives.