Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Gospel text (*Mt* 13:24-43): Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying: "... The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

The parable of the mustard seed

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the Kingdom of Heaven remains at the time of sowing and of the seed. It becomes present in the world as a seed, as something very small. At times, it can be hardly seen, as the mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds. Yet, it grows into a large tree. This seed is the presence of the future; it is a promise already present: and so is the Church.

All living things, when they begin their life are so small they are almost invisible; they can go unnoticed. But within the seed of the church, we find the infinite potentiality of God. For instance: from the standpoint of the history of the world, Jesus' resurrection is not very alluring, it is history's smallest seed. But, at the same time, it is history's greatest uniqueness.

—O Lord, this reversal of proportions is one of your mysteries: You are so great that You can become small. What a relief!