

## Lenten Season -- Helen Ackermann

### *Seeds sprout with a little water*

One of my favorite memories of growing up on the farm in northwestern Wisconsin was the preparation for spring planting. Since we had this wonderful wood stove in the kitchen with two warming ovens on top, by Dad had the perfect place to test out the oat seeds. Would they germinate or would they not? He would take a piece of newspaper, wet it quite thoroughly and place within it a number of oat seeds. He would show me what he was doing and I could not help but think these seeds are dead, they have no life. Then he would leave them there and after some time would unroll the paper to see if the seeds had sprouted. If they had, that meant that the seed was good for planting. I can remember how pleased he was and how excited I was because it seemed to make him happy. The little seeds had green sprouts and were alive.

We are like the seeds. At times in our lives, many times, we are shriveled up and dry. Our hearts are not ready to forgive nor are they ready to love. The Lenten Season is time to examine how shriveled up we are. We can rely on the waters of Baptism to give us the courage to once again sprout in an attitude of love and forgiveness. God does provide us with the strength and courage to sprout. God has bathed us in the waters of new life. We have been clothed with the garment that is Jesus Christ. We become one with Christ through our Baptism and because of that experience we can produce green and vibrant sprouts.

If you are discouraged that your heart seems shriveled and dry do not lose hope. Allow the waters of Baptism to once again bring you new life. Get out of the way and allow the love that comes from God to fill your very being.