

Explore the Theme — Sowers Are Life-givers

we continue to “rest in hope,” & dream with Irish sister-author Stanislaus Kennedy;
view a short clip from the fantasy drama *The Secret Garden*

for other “Explore the Theme” postings visit: <https://www.shcj.org/explore-the-theme>



Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy (1939-2020) was an Irish Sister of Charity and author of six books including *Now Is the Time*, acclaimed in 2009 as a “phenomenal instant bestseller for anyone searching for a deeper meaning to life.” In this excerpt “Sr. Stan” draws on the poetry of Sarton and Rilke to ground her own reflection on seeds, sowers, gardens and hope.

“The poet and spiritual writer May Sarton says, ‘It is only when we can believe that we are creating the soul that life has any meaning, but when we can believe it, and I do and always have, then there is nothing to do that is without meaning and nothing at all that exists that does not hold the seed of creation in it.’

believe that we are creating the soul that life has any meaning, but when we can believe it, and I do and always have, then there is nothing to do that is without meaning and nothing at all that exists that does not hold the seed of creation in it.’

That is the hope of the sower. That is the hope in the child who discovers the secret garden, the much-neglected place of beauty. Hope is what the children in the story *The Secret Garden* had as they weeded and cleaned the neglected garden and excitedly planted flower seeds in it and waited and believed the flowers would take root and grow—and they did. **Sowers are Life-givers**

Artists are sowers. As one of my favourite poets, the early twentieth-century German lyric poet, **Rainer Maria Rilke wrote: Everything is gestation and then birthing.** To let each impression and each embryo of a feeling come to completion entirely in itself in the dark in the unsayable, the unconscious, beyond the reach of one’s own understanding and with deep humility and patience, to wait for the hour when a new clarity is born, this alone is what it means to be an artist in understanding as well as in creating.”



ENJOY: the 2.5 min. TRAILER to the 2020 film *The Secret Garden*, from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHNOXD9Vvk>

**“The seed is in the ground.
Now may we rest in hope
as darkness does its work.”**



**As you “rest in hope,”
what dreams do you have
for your seeds?**



**Are there poems, stories, films,
gardening books ... that water
& feed your hopes & dreams
for the life of the Society ?**

*If so, will you send the titles
to Sam Strike, please, so they can be
part of a future posting?
sstrike@shcj.org*