16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 19, 2026

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 - God has shown himself to be a God of justice and mercy.

Romans 8:26-27 - The Spirit intercedes for us with God.

The Parable of the Weeds: Matthew 13:24-30

"Jesus told the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Let both grow together until the harvest:

One of God's greatest attributes is Patience. God never gives up on a sinner; He never abandons the weak, and He never ceases to nurture the good that He has planted in every human heart to become Saints. Like last Sunday's theme, today's gospel teaches us about the kingdom of God. This is not a specific location; God's kingdom is a spiritual realm where God rules, and we share in his eternal life. According to biblical experts, the weeds, probably "darnel," are a slightly poisonous plant resembling wheat in the early stage of growth. Only when it matures can it be distinguished and separated from wheat. Weeds (unbelievers) and the wheat (believers) must live side by side in this world. God allows evil ones/unbelievers to remain for a while, just as a farmer allows weeds to remain in his field so the surrounding wheat is not uprooted and thrown away. God's harvest time (judgment) of all people is coming. We are to make ourselves ready by making sure that our faith is sincere. We join the kingdom of God by trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior.

We look at this story and understand the coexistence of good and evil in the world, the deceptive nature of false teachings, and God's patience. Contained within this parable are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower, we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the "weeds" prematurely will harm the wheat; final

judgment rests with God. The field is the world, but it is also our own hearts. Within each of us, there is wheat, and there are weeds. Virtues are growing alongside weaknesses, generosity alongside selfishness, humility alongside pride, faith alongside doubt. God does not abandon the field because weeds are present. Rather, He patiently cultivates the wheat while gradually uprooting the weeds through His grace.

While we are often impatient with others, ourselves, and sometimes even with God, today's readings reveal a God whose patience is an expression of His infinite mercy and unfailing love. In a world that wants everything instantly, we expect immediate answers to prayers, quick solutions to problems, rapid growth in spiritual lives, and swift justice against those who do evil. Yet God's ways are not our ways. God works patiently because His desire is not to condemn but to save.

Here are today's take-home tips:

1. Don't be quick to judge or condemn others.
2. To uproot the 'weeds' prematurely might intentionally harm the wheat!
3. The final judgment rests on God the Creator. Not on me and you! Only God will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its rewards.
4. Caution. Caution. Caution!!!
5. Patience. Patience. Patience!!!

Our journey through thorns, thistles, weeds, and storms of life needs divine spiritual sustenance.

For that reason, St. Paul advises us in the second reading to always pray in the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, who intercedes to God on our behalf "with inexpressible groaning."

PRAYER:

We pray that despite our weaknesses and unworthiness, may God give us the grace to be resilient among weeds, calm in the midst of storms, and victorious till the end. Amen.

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