

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A
THEME: **“THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS”**

Today’s liturgy of the word talks about a very patient and compassionate God who is hopeful that sinners will be converted and warns that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate them from the church or society or from our families because of unwarranted and hasty judgment.

The first reading shows us a merciful and patient God rather than a strict and angry God. God’s delay in uprooting evil people is to provide them with the hope and opportunity of repentance. Just as every community is composed of good and evil, so it is with every individual. Our lives are a mixture of wheat and weed. The second reading reminds us, that the spirit of God goes on empowering us, even in our weakness.

Our Gospel reading tells us about a wise and patient God who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that they may come to conversion before their time ends. In other words, God awaits repentant sinners, giving them the strength to acknowledge their weakness. He calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but he sees that evil as no excuse for the evil people not to do good with the grace he has given to them. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel reading, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who fail to meet the moral standard expected of a Christian.

We are expected to practice patience and show mercy by patiently and lovingly treating the “weeds” in the society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right path, especially by our good examples and our fervent prayer for their conversion. We need to do this knowing fully that we also have some “weeds” in us which need to be uprooted. The Psalmist says that if God should mark our guilt, nobody would survive.

My brothers and sisters in Christ let us grow up as healthy wheat in God's field. Our transparent and exemplary Christian lives will be a compelling challenge and a forceful invitation for evildoers to repent of their sinful lives and turn to a loving and forgiving God. Our acts of charity, kindness, mercy and selfless service can prompt evil people in our society to reassess their lives, modify them, and become useful members of the society.

As we continue with this Mass, let us ask God to bless each and every one of us and give us the graces we need to be among the wheat in his Vineyard and also to be supportive to our parish community.