

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

July 19, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19 † Romans 8:26–27 † Matthew 13:24–43

Reflection by: Dyann Brown, OPA

The Two Ws—Wheat and Weeds

This week's gospel is a parable about the master seeking to plant his field of wheat. Unfortunately, an enemy jealously plants weeds among the master's wheat. When the master's workers learn of this act, they ask the master whether they should remove the growing weeds immediately. Surprisingly, the master told them to leave the weeds as is lest they also pull up the wheat at the same time. His advice was to let them grow until harvest time at which the weeds would be separated from the wheat, bundled, and burned.



As Jesus later explained the parable to the baffled disciples, the wheat field is the world, full of goodness and evil. As the wheat may be made into many products that nourish us, the weeds are ever-present to remind us evil exists in many various gradations and forms.

If I may here, I would I call our world a world of the two W's—wheat and weeds. As Christians, it is our intent to live in the constancy of God's goodness no matter the injustices that confront us in its many forms. We can see nowadays our society is a paradigm shift of change—surviving a pandemic, abolishing systemic racism and providing healthcare for the underserved. The weeds are manifested as societal elements that make it a political act to wear a face covering to save your life and another's, or make a slogan empowering the lives of one group seem unacceptable to the majority.

In our world, wheat and weeds are polarized; yet, indeed the two W's are part of the same field. But the relationship can change. As we plant our wheat fields and look forward to bountiful harvests, we must be ever vigilant to thwart those weeds of conflict, prejudice and—worst, indifference—through our Christian message.