

## **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07/19/20**

The parable today about the man who sowed good seed is an analogy of the good seed that our Lord and God, Jesus Christ has sown in the world.

As we heard, “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.”

Unfortunately, many weeds have been sown among the wheat throughout the Church even by those entrusted with planting good seed.

Good seed is sown by those who follow Christ and the authentic teachings of his True Church. Conversely, weeds are scattered throughout by those who follow the Devil and the false teachings of his phony church.

And we are either wheat or weeds depending on what we choose to believe because that determines who we follow – Jesus Christ or the devil.

Pope Pius IX, who reigned as the Supreme Pontiff from February 6, 1846 until his death on February 10, 1878, once asked a prominent American Jesuit diplomat to brief him

on the anti-Catholic persecutions of the day: among them the atheistic communist-led Soviet regime that was sending Russian believers to the gulags, the Masonic-led Mexican government that was hunting down priests and faithful and executing them, and the anti-clerical campaign in Spain which produced a pathological hatred during that country's civil war.

The pope listened reflectively to the priest's report, then posed a rhetorical question: He said, 'Tell me, Father Walsh, who have been the worst persecutors of the Church?' After a pause, Pope Pius answered his own question: 'The Church's worst persecutors have been her own unfaithful bishops, priests, and religious. Opposition from the outside is terrible; it gives us many martyrs. But the Church's worst enemies are her own traitors.'

This is where the weeds primarily come from – from unfaithful bishops, priests, and religious – so we have to be very careful who we listen to.

This is not my warning but the warning of Pope Pius IX and many other popes, bishops, priests, religious and saints have expressed the same sad story.

But the Lord is ever patient. In the parable the slaves of the household wanted to pull out the weeds immediately. But the master allowed them to grow together in order not to uproot the wheat.

However, unlike the plant world around us, the weeds in Jesus' parable do not have to remain so. They can be transformed into wheat by the grace of God.

The stakes are very high.

At the end of the age, the Son of Man will send his angels for the harvest and separate the wheat from the weeds.

Barring conversion, the weeds will be gathered up and thrown into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Now is the time of great mercy. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow is only a possibility. All we have is right now.

So let's pray, fast and do penance now while there is still time but not just for ourselves but for our family and friends and even for the enemies of Holy Mother Church.

