

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Sunday July 19, 2026)

There's one thing that our culture and so many of us find very difficult – waiting.

We want fast internet, instant messages, next-day delivery, and immediate results.

If something takes too long, we become frustrated. If a relationship or a friendship struggles, we wonder if it's worth it. If we don't see immediate success, we think we've failed.

Sometimes we bring that same impatience into our spiritual lives.

We wonder, *“Why doesn't God fix everything?” “Why doesn't He fix it now?”*

Why doesn't He remove all evil or change the hearts of difficult people? Why doesn't He answer every prayer as we ask, when we ask? And how many of us have been ready to give up on God once or twice in our lives?

Our Gospel today gives us something of an answer, through a parable, in which Jesus gives us something to think about.

A farmer plants good seed, but an enemy sows weeds among the wheat. And the servants immediately want to pull up the weeds.

The farmer says, “No, let both grow together until the harvest.”

And seasoned gardeners come to know – some weeds can be pulled, and others will cause more damage

It may seem strange to tolerate the weeds, but the farmer's focus is on the wheat – that is what's good and applied to us, what's good in us. That's God's focus.

God sees what we can't see in ourselves and happening around us. He sees who we are today, but who we are becoming too.

If we think of the Apostles – Peter denied Jesus, Thomas doubted, James and John argued about who was greatest.

Jesus never gave up on them – because despite what was happening in the moment – He knew what they were to become: saints in the future.

Friends, that's how God looks at us all.

And while sometimes we're impatient with ourselves – "I should be holier now" – or frustrated, we keep making the same mistakes. And sometimes we give up on ourselves, thinking: "I don't think I'll ever change"

God IS patient and He never stops working in us.

The same is so often true in our families.

When kids drift away from their faith or give parents a hard time about attending Mass – parents don't stop praying for their kids. And I hope kids are praying for your parents too.

But in our own human weakness, we can become discouraged because change seems so slow.

Today's Gospel reminds us that God is never finished with anyone.

As long as there's life, there's hope.

I think that's especially important for our young people to hear: You are growing up in a world that often tells you that your mistakes define you.

If you fail, if you struggle, if you don't measure up, somehow, you've fallen behind.

Jesus tells us something different.

We aren't the sum total of one or even many bad decisions. Failure doesn't determine our entire future.

God sees the harvest long before we do.

Jesus also tells us – the Kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed that becomes a great tree.

The greatest things God does often begin so quietly that we hardly notice them – like a child learning to pray, or a teenager deciding to come back to Mass on his or her own.

And there are many things WE CAN do to bring about a strong Christian life again – a kind word to someone, forgiveness of someone who hurt us. Small things – but in the hands of God, small things can become great things as the mustard seed teaches us.

I've seen many of those small things happen here in our own parish:

- Kids who brought their parents back to church
- The altar servers & especially the Masters of Ceremony who have deepened all our faith by watching the commitment they make to living theirs.

God's patiently growing this parish & all of us here and has been for generations – each one of us.

And while we all see the weeds that are the struggles we have and the challenges we face, and those things that we feel set us back as Christians, we must focus on the wheat – the good that comes from the little things we do everyday as Christians.

These things are God's focus – and while He is aware of the weeds, He also gives us the means to fix it – a daily examination of conscience and the Sacrament of Confession when we need it.

Friends, let us remind ourselves this week God never gives up on His people and He sees the harvest of our lives before we do.