

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – A – 2020

“Lord, you are good and forgiving.” We pray this in the responsorial psalm and it is so true. Although there are still shortcomings in the world we live, we are promised an optimistic future – the kingdom of heaven – through the three parables in the gospel today:

The kingdom of heaven is like an abundant harvest.

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed sown in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed in flour to be made delicious leavened bread for people.

The kingdom of heaven is like the life and work of each and every one of us here in our parish. Each person’s work is simple and humble, depending on the person’s role: as priest or altar servers, as musicians or lectors, as Eucharistic ministers or ushers... All are put together to offer a reverent worship to God, and to make our parish community life more meaningful. By working together, we bring the kingdom of heaven into our daily life here on earth.

The kingdom of heaven is normally described as beautiful images, like the abundant harvest, the grown mustard plant, the leavened bread, the parish life. However, we should know the fact that: the kingdoms of Heaven and of Satan coexist.

“Weeds among wheat” is reality of a harvest.

“The evil among the good” is reality of this world.

“The sinners among the saints” is reality of the Church.

The harvest is good and abundant, for the wheat is to be gathered into barns. Yet the harvest is also the time for the weeds to be separated from the wheat, to be burned; for the evil to be separated from the good.

The parable of the weeds among the wheat reminds us of the day of final judgment when God shows his justice; when the good are rewarded, and the wicked are punished.

Some of us might live in fear of God’s judgment; because of our sinfulness we might think of ourselves only as weeds to be burned. However, the first reading today tells us that our God is a patient and kind God: there is “good ground for hope.”

So, we are encouraged to repent of any shortcoming – any “weeds” in our lives – and put our trust in the love of God. For the Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, rich in kindness. Jesus’ message today encourages us to live in hope: there is no saint without a past; there is no sinner without a future.

MASS INTENTIONS (from Sun. July 19 to Sat. July 25)

Sunday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Peter DeRutte (birthday)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Fr. Brian Costello (repose – his funeral tomorrow)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Kathy Drady (birthday)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SC ...	for those affected by Covid-19
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ...	for spiritual life of our parishioners
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Sharon Cuthbert (repose)