



Bringing Home the Word

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
July 19, 2026

Weeds in the Garden of Life

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

We humans are a curious lot, a mixture of wheat and weeds, sin and grace, tolerance and intolerance. Uproot one, and you might uproot the other as well. The one who is guarded and may seem superficial may also be the one who is fun to be with and makes us laugh. The one who is terribly impractical may also be the creative dreamer. The penny-pincher who finds it difficult to spend and enjoy life may also be the one who calms our own spending and encourages us to save.

The kingdom of heaven, says the parable, is about God, who allows the

wheat and weeds to grow together; God, who recognizes in each of us both good and evil and is able to love us that way. Some find it difficult to tolerate those who are still growing in the faith.

Over the years, there have been different litmus tests to determine the truly faithful ones—usury and the lending of money for interest, being part of the military, nuclear arms use, the prohibition and use of alcohol, birth control, divorce. Consider the Inquisition, when heretics were burned at the stake. Being believers does not mean any of us perfectly lives out the ideal. God seems more tolerant of us than we are of one another. We vessels who hold the treasure of faith grow at our own pace, each quite differently. It is God who does the ultimate sorting, willing to gather the wheat from our personal gardens and leave the weeds behind. †



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one another.**

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

While unity attracts, division scatters.... Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Extraordinary Consistory, Rome,
January 7, 2026



Sunday Readings

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19

As you are righteous, you govern all things righteously.

Romans 8:26–27

The Spirit...comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought.

Matthew 13:24–43 or 13:24–30

[Jesus said,] "At harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

REFLECTION
QUESTIONS

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REFLECTION

- Who do I find difficult to tolerate?
- Who struggles to tolerate me?



Lessons from Saint Gerard

Fr. Peter D. Hill, CSsR

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the division around us. People are arguing on social media, families are split over politics, and we are even divided in our Church.

We might wonder how we can be people of peace and unity when everything feels so tense. One surprising answer comes from a quiet, humble saint who never wrote a book or delivered academic lectures but lived a life of love, gentleness, and deep faith.

Saint Gerard Majella's example can help us find our way in a divided world. Saint Gerard was born in Muro, Italy, in 1726. He became a Redemptorist Brother (not a priest) and served with joy and humility. He took care of the housework, helped the poor, and quietly guided many people back to God.

Saint Gerard stayed gentle and faithful no matter what was happening around him. A woman once falsely accused Gerard of a serious wrongdoing. Many turned against him, and even his superiors believed the lies. Gerard didn't argue or try to defend himself. Eventually, the truth came out, and his name was cleared.

In our world, where people are quick to accuse, prove others wrong, or fight back with anger, Gerard shows us another way to be: the way of humility and trust.

So, how can we follow St. Gerard's example in a time of polarization?

- Be gentle. Gerard spoke kindly to everyone, even those who mistreated him. We can learn to disagree without being rude.
- Listen more and talk less. Gerard didn't need to win every argument. Can we listen more, even to those with whom we disagree?
- Put love first. Gerard never let fear or anger guide his actions. In all interactions, we can ask: What would love do here?
- Stay faithful. Gerard spent hours in daily prayer. To bring peace and unity into a divided world, we need to start with prayer, letting God's peace fill us. †

St. Gerard shows us another way to be.

From "Plain Talk" by Fr. Peter D. Hill, CSsR, *Liguorian*, September/October 2025. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Channels of Grace in Everyday Life"

Sacramentals declare the importance of spiritual realities. A cross or medal worn around the neck can prompt us to pray more often. Crucifixes and statues in the home tell of the presence of Christ and the communion of saints and proclaim that this is a Catholic home. The use of holy water, blessed candles, and other sacramentals call to mind the sacraments we have received and the protection only God can give. All blessed objects, places, and events proclaim that the proper use of material things directs them to our eternal salvation and to God's glory. As St. Paul wrote, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



Merciful God, we are often quick to judge others and sometimes too lenient with ourselves. Please help us to see as you see and to do what Jesus would do. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 20–25

Monday, Weekday: Mi 6:1–4, 6–8 / Mt 12:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday: Mi 7:14–15, 18–20 / Mt 12:46–50

Wednesday, St. Mary Magdalene: Sg 3:1–4b or 2 Cor 5:14–17 / Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Thursday, Weekday: Jer 2:1–3, 7–8, 12–13 / Mt 13:10–17

Friday, Weekday: Jer 3:14–17 / Mt 13:18–23

Saturday, St. James: 2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 20:20–28



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