



Bringing Home the Word

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
July 26, 2026

Fishing for Treasures

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Much like still-fishing, which is when the fish ultimately find the one sitting quietly, waiting for the fish, most of the really treasured aspects of life somehow find us when we're not looking. Consider falling in love or discovering a friend, the job you enjoy so much that you'd almost do it for free, the hobby that gives you so much satisfaction, the creative gifts you never knew you had until you stumbled upon them later in life. To say nothing of the happiness that so many go looking for

and never seem to find, while others are happy without ever seeking it out.

Wisdom, the gift Solomon asked for, is much like all of that. It seems to find us. Common sense, the stepchild of wisdom, is something most parents want their children to have; for some parents, it may be a source of great frustration as they try to make sure their children have it and use it. Wisdom is certainly a hint of the kingdom of heaven, but then so too is finding love and experiencing joy and living with a peace that refuses to be unsettled by the storms of life. All those are the buried treasures of which the gospel speaks; for some, these are the pearl of great price for which they look and look until it finds them, not unlike still-fishing. All are tastes of eternal life, buried treasures, and hidden pearls. †

Sunday Readings

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Give your servant, therefore, a listening heart to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil.

Romans 8:28-30

We know that all things work for good for those who love God.

Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."



Gospel treasures find us when we're not looking.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

God speaks to us... [T]he first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what he already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord.

General Audience, Rome,
January 14, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How comfortable am I with waiting?
- Do I believe that good things come to those who wait?



Patience with the Weeds

The Redemptorists

At some point in our lives, most of us have asked, “Why does God allow evil people to get away with so much?”

It challenges our belief in a God who is both all-good and all-powerful. If God is good but not powerful, maybe he can’t stop evil. If he is powerful but not good, maybe he won’t.

Jesus helps us wrestle with this tension through the parable of the wheat and the weeds. (See Matthew 13:36–43.) A man sows good seed in his field, but while everyone is sleeping, an enemy sows weeds. When the workers offer to pull up the weeds, the master says no—because doing so might uproot the wheat too.

This is a deep insight into God’s mercy. Evil is real and painful, but God doesn’t deal with it by force. Human lives are closely intertwined with each other. Uprooting evil abruptly could harm the innocent too. So God waits, and watches, with patience and hope. This applies not just to the world “out

there,” but to our own hearts. Sometimes, we are the wheat—trying to live by God’s word. Other times, if we’re honest, we act like weeds—hurting others, giving in to selfishness or pride.

The good news is that God doesn’t give up on us. He delays judgment so that we might repent and be transformed. The same mercy we want for ourselves, he extends to others. Like the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading, we cry out for restoration. And God promises it—in his time, not ours.

God doesn’t give up on us.

So today, let us thank God for his patience. Let us turn away from sin and open our hearts to his grace. May we be wheat in his field, bearing fruit in the heart of the Church, reflecting more and more the goodness of the eucharistic Lord whom we worship. †

From *Redemptorist Daily Devotional 2026*, Liguori Publications (828966). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Restoring Hope: Healing When You’ve Been Hurt by the Church” by Paige Byrne Shortal

When someone says, “No thanks!” to the Church, we may find ourselves confused, hurt, or even angry. Such rejection may threaten us, challenge our values, even cause us to question our own faith. Sometimes we blame ourselves for the decisions of our loved ones, particularly our children. If you think you might be responsible for someone’s rejection of the Church, then talk to a confessor, spiritual director, or counselor. If you are guilty, confess your sin, ask for forgiveness, accept that forgiveness, and move on. Anything less is a lack of faith in the good God who knows you through and through and who still loves you and forgives you.

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.



God of wisdom, change our minds to know the good, our hearts to desire the good, our wills to do only good. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 27–August 1

Monday, Weekday: Jer 13:1–11 / Mt 13:31–35

Tuesday, Weekday: Jer 14:17–22 / Mt 13:36–43

Wednesday, Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus: Jer 15:10, 16–21 / Jn 11:19–27 or Lk 10:38–42

Thursday, Weekday: Jer 18:1–6 / Mt 13:47–53

Friday, St. Ignatius of Loyola: Jer 26:1–9 / Mt 13:54–58

Saturday, St. Alphonsus Liguori: Jer 26:11–16, 24 / Mt 14:1–12



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