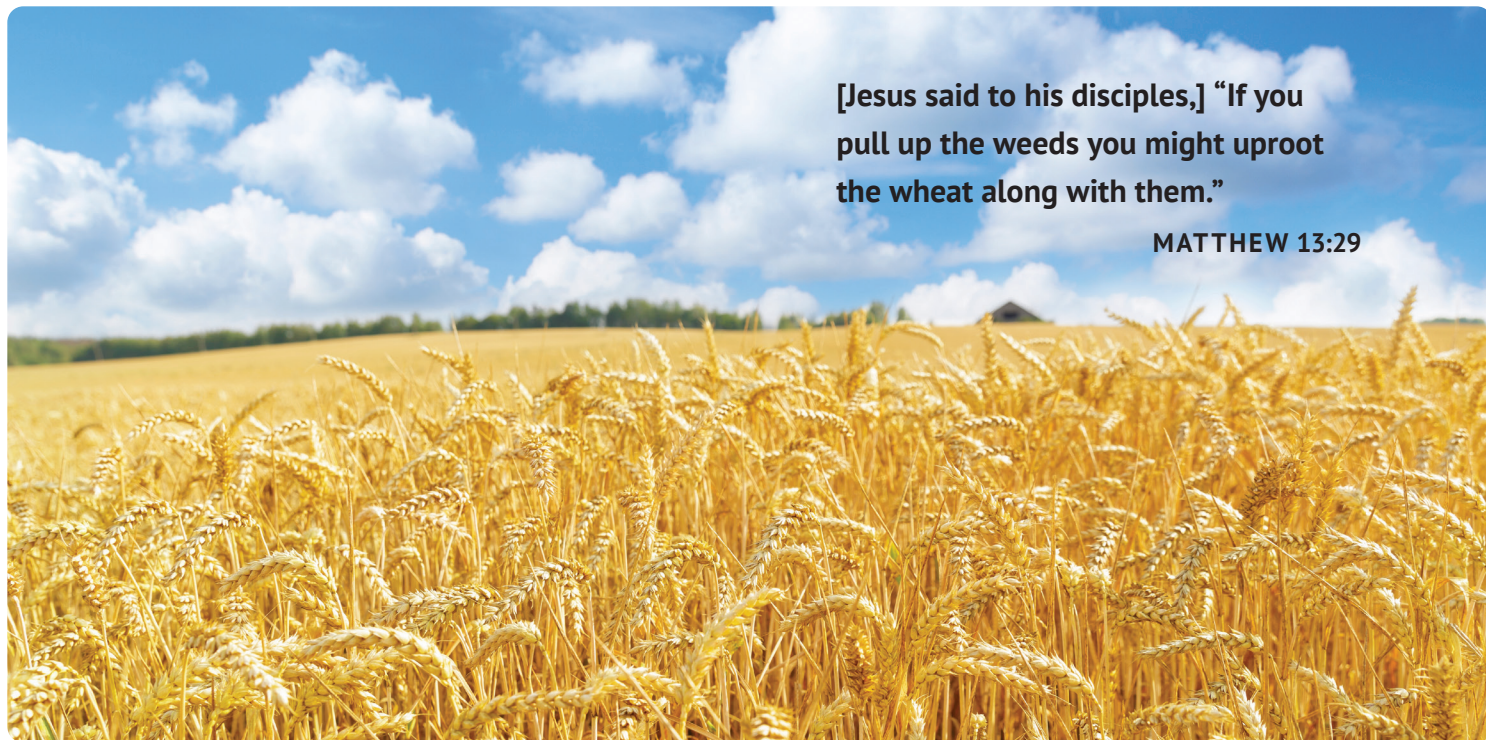




[Jesus said to his disciples,] “If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.”

MATTHEW 13:29

Weeds in Wheat

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. “He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: ‘I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]’” (Matthew 13:34–35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn’t force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: “Whoever has ears ought to hear” (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it’s his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn’t God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it’s difficult to tell the difference. Those who are “wheat” should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be “weeds.” The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God’s own time. ●



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THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Are you tempted to give up on someone? Or yourself?

Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

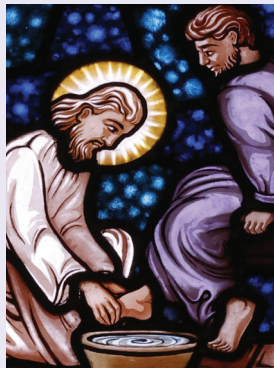


VASYLCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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**

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Monday

July 20
Weekday
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8
Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday

July 21
Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday

July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Sg 3:1-4b or
2 Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday

July 23
Weekday
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
Mt 13:10-17

Friday

July 24
Weekday
Jer 3:14-17
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday

July 25
St. James, Apostle
2 Cor 4:7-15
Mt 20:20-28

Sunday

July 26
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52
or 13:44-46