

**WORD FOR SUNDAY**



Fr. Albert Shamon

**Sunday's Readings:** (R3) Mt. 13:24-43. (R1) Wis. 12:13, 16-19. (R2) Rom. 8:26-27.

One of the most oft-repeated expressions about God in the Old Testament is the one in Sunday's Responsorial Psalm: "You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity." The inspired writers of Scripture penned that portrait of God, not from philosophical reasonings, nor from theological deductions, but from actual experience. Israel, as you know, had ratified a covenant with God to be His people. But again and again Israel broke that covenant. And so often and often did God spare Israel, that her inspired writers extolled His slowness to anger, His mercy and kindness. What a consolation to us sinners.

When the Son of God walked the earth, He confirmed this characterization of God His Father. The First Reading of Sunday's liturgy clues us in on what point we are to take from Christ's parable of the weeds and the wheat. Wisdom speaks of the leniency of God. "Though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much leniency you govern us" (R1). Linking this passage with the parable of the Gospel, the Church wishes the lesson to be drawn from the parable to be that of God's forbearance — His patience.

In the Gospel parable, note that it is the servants who are eager to root out the weeds — not the master. Wisely, he tells the farmhands, "Let them grow together until harvest." Had he not done so, the wheat might have been uprooted with the weeds, for in the early stages it is almost impossible to tell the difference between weeds and wheat. Then, too, God is also concerned even about the weeds — "You have the care of all."

Jesus' purist contemporaries criticized Him for inviting outcasts to eat with Him. Jesus answered in the parable that it is for God to make the separation, and He will do so only at the end of life. Samuel Johnson used to say that God defers His judgment of man till Judgment Day — let us do likewise. Only then shall it really be clear who is wheat and who is weed. There will be some surprises in store for all.

Later on, the Church allegorized our Lord's parable; that is, the Church let each detail of the parable symbolize something else. For instance, the field is the Church, the Christian community here and now. The enemy is the devil. The weeds are bad Christians, and the wheat good ones. In this allegorization of the parable, the point was that as long as the Church is on earth there will be weeds and wheat in it — good and bad Christians. No use trying to separate them now. God will do so in the end. Till then, draw good from evil.

Yet how impatient we are even with weeds — not to mention with people! How many lawn lovers vent their fury every summer over so harmless a weed as crab grass! Again, this is due to man's myopia. Just last week, I read an article titled in Praise of Weeds.

"It's impossible to despise a weed," the article said, "once you understand it. They have been useful to man through the ages."

What a lesson for us! God is patient even with weeds, for even weeds can be turned to good. How patient we ought to be with "human weeds" — those people we (we!) think are worthless.

The best things usually require

the most patience for their development. A tent may be put up in an hour, but a strong and stately building calls for long and careful work. We have need of patience not only with others, but also with ourselves in the building of character into what God would have it.

Patience is one of the most relaxing words in the English language. There is so much hurry, worry, flurry, scurry today, because people are impatient. **We want what we want when we want it!** Delays upset us. We don't want to wait in line. We want to beat the red light, get ahead of the other car.

Slow down is what our Lord counseled in the parable. Be patient. **Let things grow — even weeds!** Big things are not done in a minute. To repeat an old truism: Rome was not built in a day. To those who love God all things work together unto good — even weeds!



The following Prayer Groups are predominately Roman Catholic in attendance. This directory has been compiled and will be maintained by the Communication Committee of Catholic Charismatics in Rochester. Additions or deletions should be mailed to Mrs. Donald Mikel, 3000 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester New York, 14617.

July 16—Bergen Tent Meetings, 8 p.m., Father Edward Dillon, OFM, featured speaker, from Holy Name College, Washington, D.C. in Bergen.

July 18—Mass, 8 p.m., Father Alan Tammany celebrant, from Diocese of Albany. St. Lawrence Church, 1000 N. Greece Road, Greece. Sacred Heart Prayer Group.

July 20—Movie GOSPEL ROAD starring Johnny Cash, St. Lawrence Church, 8 p.m., 1000 N. Greece Road, Greece. Sacred Heart Prayer Group.

July 22—Mass, 8 p.m., Father Ron Harley celebrant, St. Paul's Church, 783 Hard Road, Webster.

July 26—Picnic, 11 a.m., Hamlin Beach State Park, East Shelter, Parking Area #1. Bring own food, everybody welcome. Sacred Heart Prayer Group.

Aug. 2—Mass, 5:15 p.m., Father John Bertolucci celebrant, from Diocese of Albany. St. Mary's Church, E. Morris St., Bath.

Aug. 3—Mass, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon, Father John Bertolucci celebrant, from Diocese of Albany. St. Mary's Church, Bath.

Aug. 8—Mass, 8 p.m., Father John Bertolucci celebrant, St. Lawrence Church, 1000 N. Greece Rd., Greece. Sacred Heart Prayer Group.

Aug. 9—Breakfast Meeting of FCBMFI, 8:45 a.m., Father John Bertolucci featured speaker, vice chancellor, Diocese of Albany. Mapledale Party House, 1020 Maple St., Rochester. Mail for reservation (\$3) to FCBMFI, PO Box 9954, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

Aug. 11—Dinner Meeting of Women's Aglow Fellowship, 6:30 p.m., Father Joseph Brennan, rector, St. Bernard's Seminary, featured speaker. Valle's Steak House, 1335 Ridge Road East. For reservations (\$4.50) phone Peg Wrisley, 872-1386.

Oct. 10-12—1975 Eastern General Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Atlantic City, N.J. Details from Eastern General Conference, PO Box 356, Rutherford, NJ 07070.

**SUNDAY**

St. John the Evangelist (Spencerport)  
60 Martha St.  
Spencerport  
Frank Ferris 352-4218 8 p.m.

**MONDAY**

St. Rose's Church (women)  
1985 Lake Ave.  
Uma  
Jean LaBore 582-1319  
following 9 a.m. Mass

St. Stephen's Charismatic Community  
DeSole's High School  
cor. Pultrney & High Sts.  
Geneva  
Mrs. San Venuti 789-8557 8:15 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

St. Augustine Rectory  
410 Chilli Ave.  
Rochester  
John & Betty Bunce 235-0235 8:30 p.m.

**Deaths**

**Fr. Mulligan Of McQuaid**

Father James T. Mulligan, a member of the Society of Jesus for nearly 62 years, died July 4, 1975, in Strong Memorial Hospital. He was 80 years old.

Father Mulligan taught Latin at McQuaid Jesuit High School from 1960 until 1963, and he continued to live there in retirement.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 8 in the school chapel, with burial that afternoon at Auriesville.

Father Mulligan was born in Sherburne, Chenango County, and entered the religious life in August 1913. Before coming to

Rochester he had taught at Lemoyne College, Regis and Xavier high schools in New York and preparatory schools in Seattle and Brooklyn.

Survivors are a sister, Mrs. Claude Mullen of Suquamish, Washington, and several nieces and nephews.

**FESTIVAL**

The summer festival at Holy Ghost parish, Coldwater Road, is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19. Rain date is Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cerra and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Enright have charge.

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