



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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THE FIELD OF LIFE

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 19, 2026

Today's Gospel offers us the parable of the wheat and the weeds (cf. Mt 13:24-43). A farmer, who has sown good seed in his field, discovers that an enemy by night has sown weeds in it, a plant that looks very similar to wheat, but is invasive.

In this way, Jesus talks about our world, which in effect is like a large field, where God sows wheat and the evil one sows weeds, and therefore good and bad grow together. Good and bad grow together. We see this in the news, in society, and even in the family and the Church. And when, along with the good wheat, we see bad weeds, we want to tear them up immediately, to make a "clean sweep". But today the Lord warns us that to do this is a temptation: one cannot create a perfect world, and one cannot do good by hastily destroying what is bad, because this results in even worse effects: one ends up, as we say, "throwing the baby away with the bathwater".

There is, however, a second field where we can clean up: it is the field of our heart, the only one where we can intervene directly. There, too, there are wheat and weeds. Indeed, it is precisely from there that both expand into the great field of the world. Brothers and sisters, our heart, in fact, is a field of freedom: it is not a sterile laboratory, but rather an open and therefore vulnerable space. To cultivate it properly, it is necessary on the one hand to take constant care of the delicate shoots of goodness, and on the other, to identify and uproot the weeds, at the right time. So let us look within a bit and examine what is happening, what is growing within me, what grows in me that is good and evil. There is a good method for this: it is called an examination of conscience, which is seeing what happened today in my life, what struck my heart and which decisions I made. And this is precisely to verify, in the light of God, where the bad weeds and the good seed are.

After the field of the world, and the field of the heart, there is a third field. We can call it the neighbour's field. They are the people we associate with every day, and whom we often judge. How easy it is to recognize their weeds, how we like to "flay" others! And how difficult it is, instead, to know how to see the good grain that is growing! Let us remember, though, that if we want to cultivate the fields of life, it is important to seek first and foremost the work of God: to learn to see the beauty of what the Lord has sown, the sun-kissed wheat with its golden ears, in others, in the world and in ourselves. Brothers and sisters, let us ask for the grace to be able to see it in ourselves, but also in others, starting from those who are close to us. It is not a naïve perspective; it is the perspective of one who believes, because God, the farmer of the great field of the world, loves to see goodness and to make it grow to make the harvest a feast!

So today too, we can ask ourselves some questions. Thinking of the field of the world : Do I know how to resist the temptation to generalize, to sweep others aside with my judgments? Then, thinking of the field of the heart : Am I honest in seeking out the bad weeds in myself, and decisive in throwing them into the fire of God's mercy? And, thinking of the neighbour's field : Do I have the wisdom to see what is good without being discouraged by the limitations and sluggishness of others?

May the Virgin Mary help us to cultivate patiently what the Lord sows in the field of life, in my field, in the neighbour's, in everyone's field.

POPE FRANCIS — July 23, 2023

Diocesan's Announcements



ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM Healthy self-esteem is linked to positive mental health outcomes, which is so important to each of us. Our program provides the opportunity to increase your self-awareness and to learn specific skills for building a positive self-esteem. Issues covered during the course include taking responsibility for your own thoughts and feelings, positive ways to behave assertively and setting realistic goals for your own future. The program will be offered from Tuesday September 22 – November 24, 2026 at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials. Registration is online at <https://hamiltondiocese.com> and can be found under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

PARENTING TIP : The expression “the family that prays together stays together” is one that most people have heard. Popular sayings make sense when we see the truth in them, but this one is backed up by research! When we pray together at home (before meals, before bed, in the morning) and attend Mass, we are connecting on a deep level that helps a family have increased unity. So, enjoy the more relaxed summer days and holidays, but don't let prayer and attending Mass take a holiday because their benefits are a wonderful addition to this great season!

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT Fr. John Ha, our new Vocations Director, invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, August 1st at St. Catherine of Siena Church (620 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, Ontario). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, July 18</u>	5:00 PM
+Omar Quintero +Janet & Warren Perschonke	
<u>Sunday, July 19</u>	9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	
<u>Tuesday, July 21</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, July 22</u>	11:00 AM
St. Mary Magdalene	
<u>Thursday, July 23</u>	11:00 AM
+Omar Quintero	
<u>Friday, July 24</u>	11:00 AM

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, July 25</u>	5:00 PM
+Omar Quintero	
<u>Sunday, July 26</u>	9:00 AM
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

XVI Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 18 de julio</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 19 de julio</u>	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	
<u>Martes 21 de julio</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 22 de julio</u>	12:00 PM
Santa María Magdalena	
<u>Jueves 23 de julio</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 24 de julio</u>	12:00 PM

XVII Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 25 de julio</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 26 de julio</u>	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	