

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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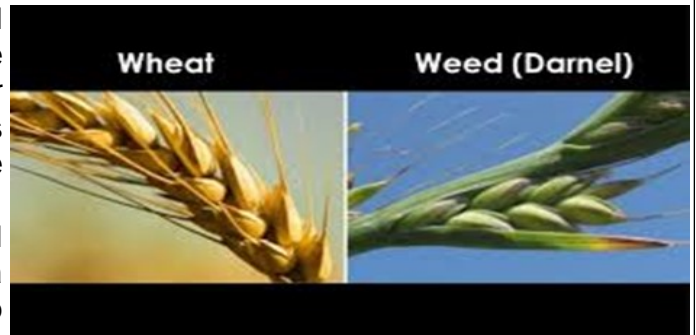
Darnel in Our Lives

People everywhere long for the security of having a place to live, to have nourishing daily food, to have an adequate health service, safety for themselves, their families and their country. Any threat, real or imaginary, to these basic securities can evoke unconscious fears that lead to irrational anxieties and selfishness.

This weekend's gospel story about the wheat and the darnel is an opportunity to reflect on the influence such unconscious fears can have in our own lives. The story is simple. A farmer sows good seed. An enemy adds darnel, a look alike rogue weed,

difficult to distinguish from the real thing until well into the growing season. Seeing it as a threat to their food supply the workers want to root it out immediately. The farmer advises

otherwise. The darnel is not a fatal disease and can be useful later in a fire to bake the bread. He trusts the power of the good seed he has sown to live through the challenge of the apparent intruder and thrive fruitfully.



In our own lives, we may be discouraged by the darnel of apathy or selfishness that often seems to endanger the seeds of goodness and love that the Lord has sown within us. He does not reject us because of our imperfection or tardiness. God is a divine artist and we are the work of His hands. He is not finished with us yet and as every artist knows dark patches can contribute enormously to the beauty of the complete picture. We can trust His choice. He is often more patient with us than we are with ourselves or with others.

In wider society as a group, we can often be afraid that others are a threat to our privileged lifestyles. For some, every stranger is a threat. The colour of another's skin or country of origin can be the catalyst of such fears. Even in a religious context, such insecurity grows into an elitism that can be a source of divisive approaches. The danger is that such fears can be exploited and whipped into hysteria by the unscrupulous for their own purposes. To protect us from such misguided approaches we need leaders who build shared visions of the essentials of how to live. Such leaders need patience, courage, respect and wisdom. The search for this vision is an ongoing one. Nobody has all the answers. We need to listen to one another and never weed out those who disagree with us. The weakest and the less able can enrich the vision. Never weed out the darnel. Trust the divine creator.

“O Lord you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.”

Fr. Tom Clancy