

## Sixteenth Sunday | Year A

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (Wis 12:13, 16-19 | Romans 8:26-27 | Matthew 13:24-43)

The word of wisdom reaffirms that there is no other god, but the God who has the care of all. He is God Almighty, but judges with clemency, and is full of kindness. Let us turn to him.

1/ Because our God is good and forgiving, let us ask him to hearken to our prayers and attend to the sound of our pleading. For all peoples and nations that fear God. We pray that, through the prayers of the Church led by Pope Francis and pastors, God may hear the cries of the poor and attend to the needs of the suffering. Let us pray.

2/ Paul is correct that the Spirit of God comes to the aid of our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought. For those who have lost their zeal and interest in God. We pray that the Holy Spirit may rekindle the love for God and Jesus among the people. Let us pray.

3/ The Parable of the Mustard Seed reminds us that true faith in God need not be large in size, but only firm and solid. When that seed of faith is planted properly, it will grow into a large tree that reaches to heaven. For those who walk aimlessly in this world. We pray that they may encounter morally good Christians and become true believers in God. Let us pray.

4/ In the parable of the good seed sown in the field, Jesus implies that faithful people always face the challenges of evil temptation in this world. But if they remain faithful, the angels of God will separate them from the evil ones in harvest time. For our sisters and brothers who, in life, were Christians and believers in God, but have now departed from us. We pray that God grant them their places in heaven. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Ruth, Rudolph, Gary, and Donnie Fackler; **[at 10:00 AM]** Jimbo DeVries and Bob Bruner. Let us pray.

Oh Lord our God, let the gift of your life continue to grow in us, drawing us from death to faith, hope, and love. Keep us alive in Christ Jesus. Keep us watchful in prayer and true to his teaching till your glory is revealed in us. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.