

One of today's gospel parables is the story of the weeds and the wheat. The master of the household says the unthinkable; do not pull up the weeds. Let them grow together with the wheat.

Now who among us has not pulled up a weed?

But this is a parable applied to us and in that I propose that we need weeds in our lives to grow.... Think about the times that difficulties, hardships, snags, hitches, bumps entered your life. As you worked your way through these, you grew – maybe not at first – but through a process, with the help of family and friends and community, with lots of prayer and wondering why, and discovering in the end – maybe years later - that God was with you every step of the way. You grew.

Your heart became more open, more tender, more empathetic. And now when you hear of others going through a similar difficulty you are there with an understanding heart. You can now walk with others through a similar difficulty.

Let's not forget that this works both ways. We may very well be a weed in someone else's life. Beautiful, thoughtful, gentle human beings that you and I are, we can at times be a challenge for others.

This week, let us temper the weeds - within and without - with kindness - for that is one way that God showers us with love.