**Year A  -  16th Sunday in ordinary time**

**The Word of God – The seed, the weed, the harvest**

**Matthew 13:24-43**

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;
but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.
So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.
And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'
He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'
But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.
Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "
He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."
He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took
and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."
Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.
This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."
Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;
the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,
and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.
The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,
and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen! (NRSV)

**Inspiration of the Holy Spirit - From the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

My dear child, you who listen to my word and put it in your heart, you are the good seed of my kingdom, you bear my word, you bear me.

Those who reject my word are the weeds of my kingdom, they listen to the word of the evil one and follow his ways, they are destined to perdition; they are the obstacles for my good seeds to grow. At the time of the harvest, the weeds will be thrown into the fire while the good wheat will be the offering to God, he will be pleased to see the glory of his kingdom.

My word is a seed of goodness that going into a good man’s heart finds fertile soil to grow and begins to thrive unobstructed. My word becomes an integral part of that man who makes it a treasure; it will bless him constantly and guide him through the good paths of life.

My word is my presence within you, it is alive and active, it is powerful beyond compare; it has the capacity to heal and to sanctify you. I am the Word of God,

therefore when you accept my word in your heart you accept me, when you place my word reverently in your heart you place me reverently in your heart too.

My word is wisdom and you who love me will find a live fountain of wisdom in your heart. My word is love and you who love me will become a living fountain of love. The living waters of my spirit will flow constantly from within you to be the glory of my presence.

Become a bearer of my word, bear my presence within you, do not walk alone in the darkness of this world; let the light of my word always shine heavenly light on your path.

Author: Joseph of Jesus and Mary (Reprinted with permission, Majellan Publications)