

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday's Liturgy of the Word brings us a powerful message of patience, unity, and growth. In the Gospel, Jesus shares the parable of the wheat and the weeds growing side by side until the harvest. It is natural to look at the world—or even our own parish—and want to immediately uproot every flaw, struggle, and disagreement. However, the landowner counsels patience, commanding, *"Let them grow together until harvest."*

In the Second Reading (Romans 8:26-27), the Apostle Paul reminds us that Christ is our peace, the one who breaks down dividing walls and reconciles us into one body. Just as the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness, guiding our prayers when we do not know how to pray, we are called to lean on one another.

Our parish is a rich field of diverse gifts, backgrounds, and perspectives. We are called not to judge or separate, but to work together as one family in Christ. True unity does not mean we are all identical; rather, it means combining our unique gifts to build up God's Kingdom. Let us commit to nurturing the good seed within our community, working together with patience, and welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed us.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make our Teen BBQ Kick-Off at Transfiguration Church last Sunday such a fantastic success. Seeing our community come together to support our youth is a beautiful reminder of the vibrant spirit here at our church. Because of your hard work, our teens enjoyed great food, fun games, and a welcoming environment to kick off the new youth ministry together. Whether you grilled the hotdogs, served drinks, set up tables, cleaned up afterward, or spent time talking with and welcoming the youth, your contribution made a difference. You did not just serve food; you helped build a space where our young people feel valued, seen, and loved by their church community. Please know that your time, energy, and joyful service are greatly appreciated. We could not have done this without you.

-Fr. Luke