



## ST. TERESA OF AVILA

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

During my homily this past Sunday, I reflected on the parable of the weeds growing among the wheat and I mentioned that we need to take care that the weeds in our lives do not overtake the wheat the Lord has planted. Yet in doing so, we must not simply focus on the weeds. The Lord needs to be the guide in the harvesting process. Some of you have mentioned that the homily resonated with you and for this I am most grateful that the Spirit was at work. I, too, can say the Gospel message resonated with me and my own faith and life experience. I humbly admit that I have some weeds that need tending and the Lord has allowed me to see that the time has come for He and I to deal with them.

For some time now, I have struggled with alcohol abuse and it has taken a toll on my body, my spirit, and my priestly ministry. I recently submitted to the Cardinal my resignation as Pastor and am grateful the Cardinal has granted me a medical leave effective July 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to receive help in this struggle and recover both spiritually and physically.

With the assistance of a great pastoral and administrative staff, as well as, so many who give of themselves in our parish ministries, it has been my sincere privilege to minister among you and experience your inspiring faith and kindness. Please remember me in your prayers and know that you remain in mine. May the Lord continue to build up the good wheat of the Kingdom of God in this parish community and in the life of each one of us – even among and despite the weeds in our lives.

With much gratitude, affection, and blessings,

Fr. Brian