



## October 9, 2022

### Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

#### **Good Wheat/Good Farmer**

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality wheat and every season he won the award for the best grown in his county. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed the farmer and learned that each spring the man shared his seed with his neighbors so that they too could plant it in their fields.

“How can you afford to share your best wheat seed with your neighbors when they are entering their crops in the competition with yours?” the reporter asked.

“Why that's very simple,” the farmer explained. “The wind picks up pollen from the developing wheat and carries it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior wheat, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of all the wheat, including mine. If I am to grow good wheat, I must help my neighbors grow good wheat.”



#### **The Wisdom of Farming**

This is a “feelgood” story, but do farmers would really help their neighbors by sharing their good seed and good farming practices with their neighbors? Or do we cynically conclude: “That would never happen!” *But that would be wrong.* Farmers know their fields and crops affect their neighboring farms and visa versa. Good fences may keep cows out of crops, but they do nothing to prevent pollen traveling in the wind.

Perhaps the wisdom of farming is that what is good for one is also good for another. This wisdom shines a light on competition vs. cooperation and personal self-interest vs. community welfare. The story of the wheat farmer who shared his seed with his neighbors certainly sends us that message.

#### **Jesus Talks About Wise Planting and Successful Harvesting Too!**

In chapter 13 of Matthew, we read a series of parables: “The Parable of the Sower” (whose seed fell in different places); “The Parable of the Weeds” (a villain plants weeds along with the wheat); and “The Parable of the Mustard Seed,” and “Parable of the Yeast” (small things can make a big difference).

The original audience for those parables was probably closer to the reality of grain, weeds, and yeast than we are. Reading these four parables together, we find two common threads of wisdom. First, start with good seed and carefully care for it. Second, small actions have a huge impact, like daily watching and care. Our faith lives follow these threads. How we start and renew our faith depends upon guides and actions, even though we may be impatient and think we move too slowly. Pray, study, worship, act: building up ourselves and our community, a natural cycle, like growing a good crop.

**Let us keep in our prayers:** speedy recovery for Dawn, Margo, and Bill; continued prayers for those suffering from extreme weather (victims of hurricane Ian, Pakistan, Alaska, Mississippi, California); pray for ourselves as we continue to seek and live by Divine Wisdom. Lord, hear our prayer!