

A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

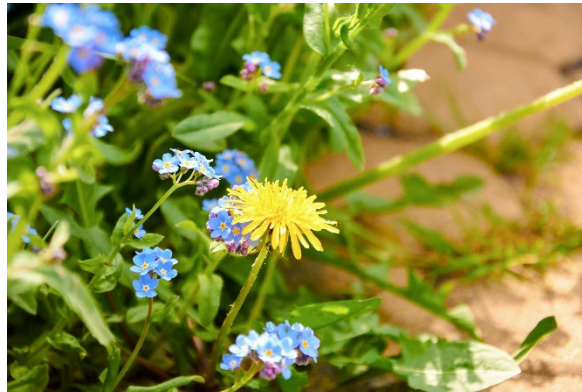
June 17, 2026

Laurie Stickland

Grateful for Weeds

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own
intelligence do not rely; in all your ways be mindful of
Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3: 5-6



I'm grateful for the weeds in my life. What are the weeds? They are the things that don't work out, the unwelcome interruptions in our lives. Most of them are small and may slightly change the course of my day. You may end up in the "slow line" at the grocery store that makes you late for meeting a friend. Or unexpected road construction causes you to be late for a meeting. Weeds like these are annoying but are usually inconsequential.

But other weeds are life-altering. The death of a loved one, the loss of a job, or any major life event can change your path in an instant. Weeds like these are painful and devastating, appearing without warning. Several events like these have led me to where I am today. At the time, I wanted none of the heartache and decisions that were forced upon me, but we don't choose where the weeds grow. Along with the weeds, there are wildflowers. These are the people and circumstances that I also did not anticipate. The wildflowers are the friendships I've made and experiences I've had that I would have never encountered if it weren't for the weeds.

As I reflect, I realize that the weeds and the wildflowers have led me to where I am supposed to be; a place I didn't know existed. And although I didn't fully choose this path, I'm grateful for the weeds that set me on this course.

What are the weeds in your life? Are you able to see where they have led you? And what are the wildflowers you've encountered along the way?

Laurie Strickland is the Director of the Partners in Mission ministry with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri. To learn more about the Partners in Mission, [click here](#).

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