

## GOOD AND EVIL: GOOD SEEDS AND WEEDS

Watching the news and seeing what is going on in our cities and around the country, one may feel inclined to get discouraged: why so much evil? Why so much rage and violence on our streets? It appears as though life has lost its value. Pope St. John Paul II observed that society is living a culture of death.

For quite some time we have embarked on a path that leads to self-destruction. Yet we know that God is still in control, and will change the dangerous course we are on. Though the devil makes so much noise and appears to win the battle, God's kingdom continues its humble and quiet growth in many peoples' hearts.

God is in no hurry to separate the good from the evil one. The love and patience of God allows goodness and evil to coexist, just like good seeds and weeds in Jesus' parable (Matthew 13:24-43). The harvest will take place at the end of times, when the Angels of God will come and remove "all causes of sin and all evildoers".

For the time being, the mercy of the Lord is shown in his patient wait, so that all people who have chosen to do evil are given the opportunity to repent and convert; and those who do good are given the chance to give witness to God's kingdom and be light in the darkness that shows the right path.

Let us pray this Sunday's Psalm 86:

*"You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.  
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.*

*All nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.  
For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God,*

*You are merciful, gracious and faithful. AMEN.*

