

Vaccine! Vaccine! Vaccine! Until we have a vaccine for the coronavirus, the whole world will continue to struggle for its survival. As recently reported, there are currently 140 plus teams working around the clock to explore possible vaccines as a means of stopping the spread and even eradicating the COVID-19.

However, as we await a vaccine, if there will be one, we have to continue the “Three W’s” practices. WAIT or WALK 6 feet apart, WASH hands often, and WEAR face mask.

There is nothing else we can do about it, but to “Let them grow together until harvest,” Jesus seems to be telling us in today’s Gospel.

Hmmmm . . . . . Jesus wants us to . . . what?

It’s hard to imagine that God who created the world would allow such an evil thing to exist and turn the world inside out and upside down.

In light of today’s parable and from what we all learn from human experiences, evil things, diseases, illnesses will quite likely remain with us until we die, when God will remove them - let us hope sooner than later.

That’s what I think He’s really saying to servants of the householder and of course, to us. “Don’t worry about it. I will take care of it.” And that’s the challenge for each of us.

On one hand we are called to do what we can to make this world a better place and to live happy, healthy lives. Additionally, we are asked to help others do precisely the same.

So, it’s important to affirm what we can affirm, but also speak out against actions that cause harm or work against the

world becoming the beautiful place it was created to be.

However, on the other hand, we must always go about the Lord's work without presuming that the world can be saved without the very ONE who created it and loved it so much.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son ... God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”** (Jn. 3: 16-17) In other words, it is important to simply let God do what only God came to do.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

It is very helpful for us to relate our experiences and the world around us to the things of God - to His dwelling among us, to His Spirit within us, to His activities with us.

It is quite possible that no matter what happens in our lives - the expected and the unexpected, the successes and failures, the enjoyable and the unenjoyable - the good and the bad - the ugly too, all contain lessons for us to learn.

They are means that can help us to get to know God, to understand life and ourselves. They are all opportunities for us to re-orient our lives, and live life to the fullest.

In the midst of today's pandemic, we can become paranoid in our relationship with one another. We are quick to conclude anything out of the normal as signs of the COVID-19. Immediately, we want to distance and isolate ourselves from the infection. And rightfully so. However, in so-doing, we may have misplaced the dignity and godliness within each of us.

And so today let us pray for a deeper self-knowledge and

self-awareness, a better understanding of the weeds growing up alongside the wheat deep within us and in our world.

Remember this: when Jesus tells us to “**let them** (the weeds and wheat) **grow together**,” it’s both God telling us to let Him do what only He can do, but also telling us that our stories are never finished, and that God is giving us opportunity after opportunity to change whatever must be changed within us and become who we are called to be, God’s holy people.

That’s our calling and the sort of God we have - a God who knows and believes in us more than we do – a God who treats us, “**with clemency, and with much lenience**”, says Wisdom in today’s first reading.

May each of us be deeply grateful for God’s mercy, forgiveness, and transformative love. And may we never look at ourselves or others as simply weeds, or worse a “host” as we’ve been told by “experts”.

Rather, may we recognize and treat every person, you, me, and everyone in-between, as wheat like a “vaccine-in-waiting”. With God’s help and much prayers, it’s just a matter of time. Amen.