

July 26, 2008  
Saturday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time  
Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Jeremiah 7:1-11

Psalms 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11

Matthew 13:24-30

*Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.""*

I think that I only recently began to understand what this meant in my life. For far too many years, I looked at this passage as one that spoke about others and the plight they faced due to the choices they made. No longer do I see this as so black and white. How many times do I catch myself saying something snide or judgmental? It might be only slightly snide or judgmental, but that is like being a little bit pregnant. When I choose to go along with the status quo, with what is easy, with what seems acceptable in the company I am in at the moment, I allow the weeds and the wheat to grow together. But with the grace of God, I can harvest the wheat and burn the weeds, if I make the choice to seek that, which is good, that which is only of God, that which is against the grain and the desire of the moment. The choice is mine to make.

*We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms -- to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.*

VIKTOR FRANKL

Copyright© Louise E Firsich June 2008. All rights reserved. No part of this may be used or reproduced in any manner without written permission of the author. Louise Firsich is a counselor, spiritual director and retreat leader. She may be reached at St Louis de Montfort Catholic Church.