

# NO TO WAR

No, Bush junior doesn't convince us, just like Bush senior. We can't understand why Saddam is the most wicked of them all, why he is the most dangerous, why his overthrow is so indispensable to the fight against terrorism. As a matter of fact, Saddam's tyranny seems "moderate" when compared with other regimes. Christian Churches should be shown tolerance everywhere; in Iraq they exist, but not in other Countries.

**We are against this war;** we are on the side of the Pope, who sees this war as being out of all proportion both as method and aim, and is

resorting to all licit means to avoid it. To spare the poor Iraqis not only human and political oppression, but exposure to the far more lethal aerial bombardments. And to spare all of us the consequences of a useless conflict.

**We are on the Pope's side** not only against the war, but above all in support of his work of peace-building. The Pope does not de-legitimise America; he doesn't label it the den of all the vices of the opulent West; he doesn't anathematise or excommunicate the Catholic soldiers who have left for Iraq; but invites everyone to join him in prayer ("Only an intervention from on High can make us hope in a less gloomy future... I invite everyone to pick up the Rosary and beg the intercession of the Blessed Virgin:" the Angelus on 9th February 2003) and in the search for a more adequate way to combat the violence that is threatening us.

We see an inalienable aspect of this more adequate way: the safeguard of freedom. Freedom to believe, freedom of expression, freedom to work for a better future; the freedom of the Church and the freedom of the State; freedom of the institutions and freedom of democracy. Of this America is an example; such a clear example that it seems almost a dream, most of all for the more underprivileged. So even if the American Government be wrong in this present question, we shall not disown America, because, amongst other things, in America you can be against America's war. In too many countries they don't even dream of this kind of freedom. We are citizens of Italy, allies of the United States, we won't burn the American Flag, we won't follow the utopia of a society so perfect that no-one needs to be good. We don't feel righteous because we make declarations approved by the majority.

**We feel responsibility,** bitterness and pain for the contradictions that cannot be solved; for the impotence of international organisations; for the conditionings that inevitably bind relationships between States. We know that our freedom must be used for changing things through toil, determination and civilised choices.

**The true peace movement** is a movement of education, in which is affirmed, as the people's conscience, the choice that evil – fearfully present in each one of us, and not only in the enemy outside (which changes according to part we side with) – shall not prevail over good. In this way every judgment and action might be factors of peace justice and civility. Exactly.

# YES TO AMERICA