

Homily  
Feast of the Holy Innocents  
December 28, 2022

The Feast of the Holy Innocents. This day brings a sadness that reminds us of the evil in the world. Unknown numbers of baby boys were slaughtered in an effort to destroy the Baby Jesus, the Future King. These Holy Innocents remind us just how difficult it is to follow Jesus.

Even today, we mourn the loss of over 63 million abortions since Roe v Wade. Although the trend of annual abortions is downward since 1990, nearly two thirds of Americans believe abortions should be legal all or most of the time. The World Health Organization states that, "access to legal, safe and comprehensive abortion care, including post-abortion care, is essential for the attainment of the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health"

Yes, there is evil in the world. Yes, we live in this world created good by an All-Good, All-Caring God who loves us. Yes, His love for us includes, by necessity, Free Will. Otherwise, we couldn't love God or each other. Love is a decision; love is a choice. And that choice allows for evil to exist.

And in His divine Wisdom, in His impossible-to-understand Plan, He makes good out of evil. It's difficult to understand, but we are not meant to understand; we are meant to trust. We trust in the Lord; we trust in His divine Plan.

God allows evil to exist. But He created a good world filled with His good creatures. We all are created good. It is up to us to choose the good, the best good, not the better good. We often confuse what is good enough with what is The Good.

If we see an opportunity to help our neighbor, for example, and carry his trash to the curb, but instead enter our home to empty the dishwasher, we made a choice. Was it evil? No. But it was a missed opportunity to do good. Isaiah tells us, *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* (Isa. 5:20.)

God shines a light that reveals all darkness; darkness cannot exist in God's light. Because of Free Will, we can choose to ignore the Light of Christ, or just block it just a little, and choose a good that may not be fully good.

Not one of us is responsible for over 63 million abortions, but how many of us are guilty of a missed opportunity? How often do we justify our actions to make our lives easier at the cost of helping someone in need? It's the little things that matter.

Today as we remember the Holy Innocents and mourn the millions of those voiceless souls and pray for those who perpetrated the evil, we also remember our own missed opportunities. Let the Light of Christ shine all around us to remove all darkness in our lives.