



THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
**Office of Human Life,
Family and Bioethics**



Lordship of the Newborn King

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The Pharaoh of old, haunted by the presence and increase of the children of Israel, submitted them to every kind of oppression and ordered that every male child born of the Hebrew women was to be killed (cf. Ex 1:7-22). Today not a few of the powerful of the earth act in the same way. They too are haunted by the current demographic growth... Consequently, rather than wishing to face and solve these serious problems with respect for the dignity of individuals and families and for every person's inviolable right to life, they prefer to promote and impose by whatever means a massive programme of birth control.

-Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, n. 16



The coming of the Christ Child presents us with a crisis that must be confronted. Like King Herod, we can see the Christ Child as a threat to our power, independence, and ultimately the self-deceiving reign of our lives or we can follow the Star of Bethlehem as the wise men once did and humbly lay our gifts as the feet of the Newborn King.

Today, so many in our world are infected with the spirit of Herod, which sees the reign of God, not as the ultimate manifestation of truth, peace and justice, but as a threat to absolute human autonomy, which is hailed as true freedom. As pharaoh of old once sought to kill every Hebrew male child and Herod saw the Christ Child as the supreme threat to his autonomy, so too the powers of this world see human life and its Author as a threat to their nefarious motives behind population control and restructuring the economy itself with a *great reset* in a bid for godlike power. The powers of this world will leave no option off the table to accomplish their goals. The freedom that the Christ Child brings is not a freedom from responsibility, but a freedom that allows man to grow in his capacity for the good, for God who is his ultimate end. As the Word

became flesh and dwelt among us, we are called to be transformed by Him in whose image and likeness we were created. The first coming of Christ draws men through the gentle persuasion of Divine Love to be brought into the Kingdom of God. At the second coming, Christ will come to judge the powers of the world by which He Himself was judged and bring all men under His glorious reign by necessity.

As the powers of this world seek to *build back better* relying solely on their own power, they do not know that unless the Lord is the one who builds, those who labor do so in vain (cf. Psalm 127:1). We as a people of faith anticipate Christ's Kingdom coming on earth as it is in Heaven knowing that we belong to Him who has already achieved the ultimate victory over sin through His passion, death and resurrection. We belong to the King who was born to die and escape the confines of the tomb. We pray for the grace during this Christmas Season to be brought under the **Lordship of the Newborn King** by the gentle persuasion of Divine Love while there is still time so that like the wise men of old, we too can bow down before Him and humbly lay our gifts at His feet.