

Walking with Christ

By: Deacon Rick Lawlor

The Holy Innocents



A long time ago the King of Egypt was an evil man who ordered the midwives to kill all baby boys out of jealousy and to maintain power: *“When you help the Hebrew women give birth,” he said, “watch them as they deliver. If it’s a son, kill him; but if it’s a daughter, let her live.”* We read this within Sacred Scripture in the Book of Exodus. This is why Moses was sent down stream by his mother, hoping to save his life from an evil, murderous king. Ultimately, God had a plan for Moses and he was rescued by Pharaoh’s own daughter as he would go on to become the great leader of the people of Israel. Likewise, many thousands of years later another evil king ordered the murder of all the baby boys throughout the region of Bethlehem in an attempt to kill Jesus, the newborn King. *“When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under”* And today, in our modern era, right here at home in these United States of America, the greatest country in the history of the world, evil is no stranger as so many of our children are murdered at the hands of evil. Nothing is more sacred than the lives of our children and when they die so senselessly and tragically our souls are shaken and our faith is tested.

School violence began with The Columbine High School massacre, which was the first major school shooting and attempted bombing that occurred in our country, on April 20th 1999, at Columbine High School in Columbine, Colorado. The perpetrators were two students and they murdered 13 students and one teacher in the school library. Since 1999 there have been dozens of school shootings throughout and across our country. Including Sandy Hook in 2012, which remains the worst school shooting in our Nation’s history and has directly affected so many of us. Recently, just three weeks ago in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at Assumption Parish and School. A crazed 23-year-old man shot and killed two children and injured 18 more victims while in prayer at a Catholic Mass. Perhaps the darkest day in American history, and a testament as to how much the devil despises prayer. And a great reason and motivation for us to wield our Rosary like a sword!

My friends, evil is alive and well in our world today, just as it was two thousand years ago when an evil man tried to kill our Lord, right after his birth. Perhaps the greatest and most dangerous lie that the devil actively tells us is: *“There is no such thing as Hell”* This is because we live in an age of “relativism” where the truth is whatever I want it to be, and there is no such thing as sin. As a result we as a people have been heartbroken, traumatized and infuriated. The fall of humanity into serious sin has never been made more clear. We mourn the death of our innocent children, our Holy Innocents, and we pray that these tragedies will stop. We pray that our political leaders will figure out a way to keep our children safe and that troubled people will get the help they need before the evil one recruits them for his next mission.

One last thing, God is not responsible for these tragic deaths. Rather, God is responsible for the love and the resurrection that these precious children shall enjoy. And he is responsible for the healing and the comfort and the knowledge that God is real and that he is saddened by such events of sin and evil. Nothing is more powerful than love, therefore, pray to the Holy Innocents, so many young children that have died tragically at the hands of evil throughout history and allow the love of God that now protects them in Heaven to heal your broken heart.

May Almighty God Bless You Today and Always.