

Who Is Weeping for Today's Holy Innocents? The Evil of Abortion

When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."

(The New American Bible, Matthew 2:18).

With respect to the massacre of the Holy Innocents, St. Matthew refers to Jeremiah's prophecy concerning Rachel, the favored wife of Jacob who pined all her life for children but died with sorrow in giving birth to Benjamin, the brother of Joseph who would later be exiled in Egypt. Surely Rachel must have wept bitterly through that difficult delivery that would rob her of her own life and life with her children. She was buried at Ramah near Bethlehem in the land given to the tribe of her son Benjamin. A thousand years later Jeremiah speaks as though she were rising from her grave to weep for her descendants who are chained in Ramah and are then carried off to captivity in Babylon, gone from their sacred land. Other passages in Scripture refer to her burial site as Bethlehem Ephrata in the land of Judah, for Jacob was enroute to Bethlehem when she died. Ramah and Bethlehem are not that far apart and are on either side of Jerusalem. Out of Bethlehem would come the Messiah. Many of the lambs used in the temple sacrifices would graze in this area. How fitting that the Perfect Unblemished Sacrificial Lamb of God should be born in Bethlehem and escape the slaughter of the Holy Innocents from Bethlehem and the surrounding area by his own exile into Egypt. God instructs Rachel to refrain from weeping because her children would learn repentance from their chastisement and God, in His mercy, would restore them to their sacred land; He would bring them physically home. And of course, Rachel would rejoice to see them all in the eternal kingdom after the Resurrection of the Messiah.

St. Matthew makes this typological reference to Rachel in citing the massacre of the Holy Innocents to focus on the Messianic age with the escape of the Christ Child into Egypt. It is Jesus who leads us in the **spiritual exodus out of slavery to sin and restores God's people to their sacred dwelling place with Him, especially in our own hearts**, when He becomes the Lamb of God slain in atonement for our sins. Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich describes how Herod seduced the women of Bethlehem and surrounding towns to come to Jerusalem under the pretext of receiving an award for their fertility. On the way, soldiers sent the husbands home and the women were led onward, then herded into one room while their babies were torn from their arms and taken into another chamber and brutally stabbed to death and thrown on a heap in a common grave. Can we imagine the day and night of screams of those children and of those mothers, doubled because not knowing the long awaited Messiah had already been born, the women feared he might have been destroyed in Herod's slaughter? Such evil! Such sin! Can we imagine the sorrow

and tears of Mary for those children and those mothers each time she looked upon her Son, spared such a cruel fate, at least for the time being? Is she not, as the new Eve and mother of all the living in the order of grace, also the mystical Rachel who weeps for her children, so many of whom have been chained to sin, so many lost in spiritual death? Like the chosen people of old, we, too, must learn repentance and obedience to God from the chastisements we suffer, for He chastises those whom He loves and wishes to save. In the Diary of Our Lady of America© Our Lady appears holding the world in her hands as she weeps over it, over us, all her children. Listen to her sorrow!

“Behold, O my children, the tears of your Mother! Shall I weep in vain? Assuage the sorrow of my Heart over the ingratitude of sinful men by the love and chasteness of your lives. Will you do this for me, beloved children, or will you allow your Mother to weep in vain?” “Do not forget your poor Mother, who weeps over the loss of so many of her children.” ... “Weep, then, dear child, weep with your Mother over the sins of men. Intercede with me before the throne of mercy, for sin is overwhelming the world and punishment is not far away.”

Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pgs. 12, 15 and 34).

Everything human within us cries out against Herod’s murder of these innocent children. How must we feel then about the millions slaughtered as cruelly by abortion? Sister Mildred Neuzil spoke often of the great sin of abortion calling down the judgment of God upon America and upon all the world. If Our Lady wept bitterly over the murder of the Holy Innocents, how much more must she weep over the millions upon millions of innocent babies tortured and mutilated in the womb by the very people who are suppose to protect them most -- their parents, family, doctors and nurses! How can human beings do such inhuman things to other human beings? The only answer: By denying someone his/her God-given personhood which bestows all human rights one can rationalize away the violations of all human rights. Hitler depersonalized six million Jews, calling them vermin, so he could rationalize his brutal extermination of them. Slaves were depersonalized so “owners” could buy, sell and treat them like dirt. Sex and human traffickers depersonalize their victims so they can sell them, violate and even kill them as they choose. Abortionists deny the personhood of children in the womb so they can dispose of them as if they were garbage. But God alone is the Lord of life and He has created life sacred, from the first moment of conception to the moment of natural death. He has made all human beings in His image and likeness. People do not give us our human rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; God does, and only God can take them away.

Jesus addresses the issue of **unnatural acts** in the message of Our Lady of America© given to Sister Mildred Neuzil on July 13, 1981. It is paramount that we ponder His words and apply them to the life issues we confront in our society today.

Many unnatural acts are being committed in the name of love. This evil is being disguised and tolerated as an intrinsic right like any other. Even some of My

priests and consecrated virgins are being caught up into this web of evil, not realizing its terrible consequences. (Diary, Page 40).

What are the **many unnatural acts committed in the name of love**? **Jesus Himself calls them evil and warns us they are being disguised as intrinsic rights like any other when they are not**. First, we must understand what a natural act is. It is one that achieves the purpose for which it was created according to the law God has established for our nature. This law is called the Natural Law written into our very nature and known innately, like our own conscience. The desire for the preservation of life, the obligation of parents to protect their offspring, and the knowledge of right from wrong and good from evil are known innately. Nature makes it obvious that human procreation was ordained to be a personal union of a man and a woman in which each contributes half of the necessary chromosomes for the makeup of a child who, at conception, is a person endowed with an immortal soul and entitled to all human rights. We simply know that we are social beings created to be a family in the image of the Trinity, the true First Family. We also know innately that we did not create ourselves nor create the universe nor write the laws of the universe, and that there is a Higher Being who has supreme authority over us and to whom we owe adoration and obedience. This is the Natural Law and anything contrary to this Natural Law written in our hearts and minds and very being would be an unnatural act. Surely the anti-life, anti-family and anti-marriage issues of our day – abortion, infanticide, cryogenics, surrogacy, in-vitro fertilization, embryonic stem cell research, cloning, homosexuality, rape, the playboy mentality that treats people as things, euthanasia, -- fall into this unnatural category, do they not? Abortion, the killing of our own offspring, is one of the most heinous unnatural acts for its victims are the most innocent and the most helpless to defend themselves. This deadly act is a direct attack upon the sanctity of life itself as God ordained it, an outright opposition to the Author and only Lord of Life. It attacks life at its very beginning where it is most vulnerable and dependent on our humanity. It is a most horrific violation of human rights at its very foundation, for the right to life is the first God-given right upon which all others depend.

Every year abortion kills as many Americans as have been killed in all the wars in U.S. history combined. It is estimated that 50-56 million babies, 3,300+ per day, 1.3 million per year, have been slaughtered here in the United States alone since Roe v. Wade was passed on January 22, 1973. **There are 42 million abortions each year throughout the world.** Hitler's holocaust of 6 million Jews and another 6 million non-Jews over a number of years, horrible as it was, pales in the light of such staggering numbers of abortions each year. If the blood of Abel, one man, cried out to heaven for justice against his murderer, then how much more must the blood of millions upon millions of innocent children brutally tortured and dismembered in the womb cry out to God their heavenly Father from this valley of horrors for justice? We heard our president call on the world not to ignore the atrocities in Syria when its own president used chemical weapons on hundreds of his own people. We were outraged at the images of dead little children lying in rows on the floor after being gassed to death. If only we could lay in rows on the floor the millions of little children ripped

apart in abortion or dead from the chemicals inserted into their mothers' wombs to abort them, we might begin to see the evil of abortion. Perhaps we would die from shame! How long can God hear the cries of these children and not demand justice for them and judgment upon us for what we do and what we fail to do to stop it? Jesus loves the little children! Is there any shame large enough to grasp this atrocity, this horror? It is neither human nor civilized! We joke that we cannot fool Mother Nature and yet we act like we have a right to something that is absolutely contrary to our nature. Will nature have its revenge?

Our Lady gave Sister Mildred messages into the 1980's. She spoke of the sins of the tongue as a vital cause of these evils in our society: blasphemies, **murders of the born and the unborn**, the old and unwanted, chaos and war. Like Jesus, she hates the sin but loves the sinner and bids us seek the compassion and forgiveness of Jesus.

“Dear one, the misuse of the tongue, the power of speech is a terrible evil. From it come hatreds of every kind—blasphemies, *murders of the born and the unborn*, the old and the unwanted. It is the tongue, speaking words of destruction, corruption and deceit, that has caused and is causing to a most frightening degree the chaos that is happening among all men and nations.

The Word of God become Man spoke words of healing, forgiveness, kindness and compassion. He spoke harshly only of and to those who by their pride and deceit were leading His people astray. With His tongue, He glorified the Father and gave hope and confidence to His people. Use your tongue, O my dear children, to praise the Trinity within you, to tell of the glory of Him who lives in you, and through you desires to speak words of wisdom, kindness and compassion. Do not prevent the Holy One from doing good through you by using your tongue as an instrument of evil.” (Diary, Page 44).

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 marked the 41st annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. It was a time to praise the infinite mercy of God as we defend the sanctity of life and praise the Lord of life. As Jesus said to St. Faustina in her Diary, DIVINE MERCY IN MY SOUL, **the soul most in need of His mercy has the greatest right to it.** This March is a call to all who have been burdened in any way or for whatever reason by this evil of abortion, to come to Jesus, the Divine Physician, to be healed and forgiven. We are all sinners and are all in need of a Savior and of forgiveness. He forgave those who tortured and crucified Him. His arms are wide open on that cross to embrace and receive any of us who will humbly confess our sinfulness and seek His mercy. He came to save us, not to condemn us. And Mary, our Mother, is standing beside Him to shield us from the justice we so rightly deserve, for her heart is always that of a Mother weeping for her children and interceding for them. She is our Mother of Mercy, our Rachel, weeping for today's Holy Innocents and all her children. May she lead us to her Son to find repentance and peace, obedience and love and restoration into the land of the living through the Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity that makes us so precious to God, His temple. Since, in the words of Our Lady of America®, **“America, the United States in particular, is being given the**

tremendous, yet privileged, opportunity to lead all nations in a spiritual renewal never before so necessary, so important, so vital,” (Diary, Pg. 25.) let us pray for our country to accept this mandate from heaven to lead the world to peace and back to faith and purity and to fulfill Our Lady’s request to reform our lives and honor her in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Let us pray, pray, pray for the conversion and protection of America!

A Prayer for Our Country

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the sanctity of family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that God’s law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. Amen. (Men of the Sacred Hearts)

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