

Daily Reflections



THE CHOICE IS MINE!

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

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.*

MATTHEW 2:16-18

Reflection

While these days are formally the celebration of the 12 days of Christmas, today's Gospel plunges us deep into the grief and sorrow of innocent life violently taken by the delusional, self-gratifying need to be the only one to wield power. Unconditional love stands in stark contrast to sin and evil. The juxtaposition of good and evil reminds people of faith to cultivate compassion, mercy, love, generosity, and God's life within us.

There are remnants of this same grasp for power and greed today as well. I shudder with the chill of evil set loose on people and upon the world created in majesty and love. Evil is real and exists among us. Rachel's lamentation is the same today as it was in the time of Jeremiah. If we fail to acknowledge evil, we can easily fall prey to its dark designs.

In this Season of Light and Incarnation, God's desire to be united with us and for us to know that we are loved is the life-giving grace of the day despite the darkness that exists.

In our beautiful yet tattered world, we must stand aware and alert to God-like ways: to love generously, act justly, and choose life for all. In love and for love God has given us free will. No one is forced; all are free to choose.



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For Pondering

- What is your experience of love that allows you to walk in the light of

right relationship?

- What enables you to see and reflect God's loving gaze in people you encounter each day?
 - What situation or person needs you to mirror the face of God's love now?
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For Prayer

*Gracious God,
the remembrance of the death of the Holy Innocents
stands in startling contrast to your purpose in sending Jesus among us.
My entire being laments for those who have died
in senseless violence, hatred, and war.
May the faith I confess with my lips speak through my manner of life.
May I choose to love tenderly, act justly, and walk in your ways.
Amen.*

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