

December 28, 2020

Feast of Holy Innocents

Hello Gobin Family!

On the fourth day of the Christmas feast we recognize the day the Church founders called, The Feast of Holy Innocents.

This feast day was designed to remember the innocent children who were persecuted and lost their lives during the attack on Bethlehem at the order of Herod the Great.

The church has long seen the need to integrate this as a principle to guard the vulnerable among us. We **MUST** be advocates for the less fortunate, especially children who, as the feast indicates, are innocent and defenseless.

The highest mandate of what it means to follow the Way of Jesus is to Love radically. This will often come at a great cost.

Authentic Love is co-suffering, self-giving, and radically forgiving.

Authentic Love will be counter cultural and often feel counter intuitive.

Authentic Love will cause us to examine the wounds of others, as well as OUR wounds, and see them with fresh eyes.

I encourage you to spend a few moments with these statements and consider the practical application they might have on how we move through the world.

This is a clear callback to the ministry of Jesus, inviting people to repent, which simply meant change the way you see. This new way of seeing makes room for us to embrace the redemptive work of grace, know that all of our wounds, if transformed, are Sacred, Holy, and part of the greater Journey.

Today's feast, interestingly named "The Holy Innocents," reminds us that all of us have been wounded by society, culture, and even family and friends. Somehow wounding is part of the human journey. We are all "holy innocents," each carrying our unique woundedness.

Make no mistake, strong boundaries are necessary and healthy for toxic or harmful relationships. None of us need to go looking for pain, or adding it to our lives. We all carry our own wounds, pain, and grief.

However, when we choose to live in Love, even in spite of this pain, we chose to allow it to have its work in us, bringing us into the health of Love. In this way we become "wounded healers", to use Henri Nowen's beautiful phrase.

Often times this work of healing Love will happen as we choose to Love someone who is different than we are, someone who's journey is not like mine. Authentic Love is the healing, transforming work that takes place when we choose to open ourself to Love something outside of ourself. Love happens from a place where we see that we are all connected part of the same whole.

Grace and Peace,
Joel Everson