

The Problem of Evil and God's "Silence"

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Why doesn't God make things easier? Perhaps the most vexing faith question of all time is the problem of God's silence and his seeming indifference. Why does God allow evil? Why do bad things happen to good people?

The presence of evil in the world poses a deeper question. Why does God seem to be hidden? If God is so massively real, why do so many people not recognize, acknowledge, or care about his existence? Why do believers have to live, almost always it seems, on the edges of doubt? Why doesn't God make his existence clear, a fact beyond doubt? Why doesn't God silence his critics?

Evil exists because God respects freedom, both in nature and in human beings. When we are confronted with the problem of evil in the world, the conclusion we might draw is not that God doesn't exist or doesn't care, but rather that God respects and values freedom in a way that we don't.

God doesn't make things easier because God can't make things easier, at least not without making us and the world into something far less than we are. When God made us, he gave us as much freedom, creativity, and spunk as was possible. He



didn't play it safe but gave us as much godliness as he could without making us into gods ourselves. Simply put, in making us, God went so far as to give us a freedom that even he won't tamper with. That's risky, but as a parent, it seems God would

rather risk than control, allow creativity outside of his influence than limit ingenuity, and tolerate the misuse of freedom than relate to robots. God is perceived as silent because he allows human freedom and ingenuity to be precisely what they are meant to be: noncoerced, even by God. God is not a frightened parent who needs to control, nor a threatened creator who kept what was best back for himself. God allows evil because God respects the freedom and ingenuity of creation and, as we know from our faith, can ultimately redeem whatever goes wrong.

Things could only be simpler if God had made us Swiss clocks—wonderfully tuned to preset rhythms, with no mess, no sin, no evil, and the beauty of perfect crystal. But then there wouldn't be any love, freedom, creativity, or meaning. No. God built us on a razor's edge, so full of godly fire that we are capable of both martyrdom and murder. †



Lord Jesus, when we fail to recognize you in friend or stranger, in familiar or foreign, please open our eyes of faith, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

In the resurrection we are assured that there are no doors that are eternally closed. Every time we close a door, or one is closed on us, God opens another for us. The resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, that God writes straight with the crooked lines of our lives, that we can forever revirginize, regain lost innocence, and move beyond bitterness.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 24–29

Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 6:8–15 / Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday, St. Mark:

1 Pt 5:5b–14 / Mk 16:15–20

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 8:1b–8/Jn 6:35–40

Thursday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 8:26–40 / Jn 6:44–51

Friday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 9:1–20 / Jn 6:52–59

Saturday, St. Catherine of Siena:

Acts 9:31–42 / Jn 6:60–69

Bringing Home
the Word

April 23, 2023

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Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Easter (A)

April 23, 2023

He Will Walk You Home

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

It was a very simple encounter. Two people, possibly husband and wife, on their way home from Jerusalem to a neighboring village, are joined by a lone traveler walking on the same path. The couple was downcast for some reason, and the lone traveler showed interest and concern. It was nothing out of the ordinary, just simple human interest. However, it's often just such an unexpected situation that becomes a profound event of God.

Jesus was talking beside them, explaining their sacred writings, and

they did not recognize him. What would it take for them to realize the identity of their companion? As he appeared to continue his journey, they offered him hospitality: "Stay with us" (Luke 24:29). Though they didn't understand who he was or everything he had said to them, their hearts were open to him and so he stayed. "At table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them" (Luke 24:30). That did it! Now they knew. "He was made known to them in the breaking of bread" (Luke 24:35).

This is another moving story about the past and the present. How often we fail to recognize Jesus in our midst. He is with us in the very ordinary events of life, like walking home or preparing a meal. He is there even in our misunderstandings and disappointments. When we realize this, our hearts burn within us. We begin to see that the entire world is a place of encounter. Every human action holds the possibility of revelation. †

*How often we fail
to recognize Jesus
in our midst.*

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:14, 22–33

God raised [Jesus] up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

1 Peter 1:17–21

He was...revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory.

Luke 24:13–35

He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened.

A Word from Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, we are always journeying in life. And we become what we go toward. Let us choose the way of God, not of self.... We will discover that there are no unexpected events, no uphill path, no night that cannot be faced with Jesus.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 26, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Have I ever experienced our Lord in an unexpected encounter?
- Where do I least expect to find him today?



Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's
Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."

Parish phone: 509-234-2262 April 23, 2023 website: stvincentconnell.org

Fr. Miguel A. Gustavo Ruiz Juárez 509-318-0295 gruiz@dioceseofspokane.org

Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

3rd Sunday of Easter

Mass April 23, 2023

Lector: Elida Fernandez

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Mike R. & Maria G.

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Wally & Marla Goade

Altar Servers:

Emmett K. & Aubriel S.

4th Sunday of Easter

Mass April. 30, 2023

Lector: Stacy Kniveton

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Eloisa M. & Stacy Ferguson

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Danny & Martha Holt Family

Alter Servers:

Giselle S. & Adrian K.

Pope's Prayer intentions:

Victims of Abuse.

*Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the
wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may
they find within the Church herself a concrete response
to their pain and suffering.*

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia

10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)

12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's

8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's

Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's

Friday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917; 12 pm – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like
on the all-parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact
Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday
bulletin. Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please
email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also
see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on
Facebook please email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers

May – Guadalupanas

June – Altar Society Guild 1

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday the 26th of April

@ St. Vincent Parish

6:30 pm

Confession Schedule

@ St. Pat's –Pasco

Tuesday – Friday

5 pm – 6 pm

@ Sacred Heart- Othello

Wed. @ 5 pm

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED

Meets Wed. the 26th of April

Dinner is served @ 5:20 pm

Class begins @ 5:50 pm

Our Last meet of the school year.

Connell Food Bank

Banco de Comida

Seniors: Tuesdays

3rd Edad- Tues. / Martes

April 25

10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Public:

El público en general:

Wednesdays / Miércoles

April 26

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

Apr. 2, 2023

Mar. 26, 2023

10:30 am - \$1973.77 10:30 am - \$986.00

12:00 pm - \$818.31 12:00 pm - \$508.00

Basin City - \$968.00 Basin City - \$1221.00

Safe Environment

All the presentations for all students Kinder –
High School at St. Vincent Parish and San Juan
Diego Mission have been completed. If you are
interested in a copy of the lesson presented.
please contact: Elida Fernandez 509-318-0917

Prayers for 1st Communion Students

Please keep all of our 4th- 6th graders in our
Religious Ed class in your prayers as they
finish their preparation for 1st Communion:
Abimar Cardenas, Kevin Ceja, Breanna Damian,
Erik Duron, Logan Ferguson, Amaya Garcia,
Kaylah Garcia, Ivan Lopez, Anthony Martinez,
Gloria Mata, Joselyn Moreno, Leah Roman,
Armando Rubio, Isabel Rubio, Ximena Rubio,
Juan Salas, Arianna Sanchez, Leonardo
Sanchez, Otoniel Torres, John Yerbich, Amerie
Zuniga, Natalie Magana

New Act of Contrition

O my God,

I am sorry and repent with all my heart

For all the wrong I have done

And for the good I have failed to do,

Because by sinning I have offended you,

Who are all good and worth to be loved above all

things.

I firmly resolve with the help of your grace,

To do penance,

To sin now more,

And to avoid the occasions of sin.

Through the merits of the Passion

Of our savior Jesus Christ,

Lord, have mercy.

FR. GUS'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS:

Apr. 23, 2023 – May 7, 2023

Mon. Apr. 24:

Fr. Gus day of rest

Tues. Apr. 25:

No Confessions @ Eltopia

No Mass @ Eltopia

6:00 pm Finance Council @ Connell

Wed. Apr. 26:

8:00 am Adoration @ Connell

8:30 am Mass @ Connell

6:30 pm Confessions @ Connell

Thurs. Apr. 27:

9:00 m Meeting @ Pasco

No Adoration @ Eltopia

No Mass @ Eltopia

5:30 pm Parish Council @ Connell

Fri. Apr. 28:

8:00 am Mass @ Tri-Cities Prep

No Confessions @ Basin City

6:30 pm Wedding @ Connell

Sat Apr. 29:

1:00 pm Quinceanera @ Connell

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun Apr. 30: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

Please Keep Fr. Gus in Our Prayers.

Monday May 1:

Fr. Gus @ Spokane Meeting

Tues. May 2:

Fr. Gus @ Spokane Meeting

No Confessions @ Eltopia

No Mass @ Eltopia

Wed. May 3:

Fr. Gus @ Spokane Meeting

No Adoration @ Connell

No Mass @ Connell

No Confessions @ Connell

Thurs. May 4:

10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia

5:30 pm Parish Council @ Eltopia

7:30 pm Finance Council @ Eltopia

Fri. May 5:

8:00 am Prison Ministry

No Confessions @ Basin City

5:00 pm Marriage Prep @ Connell

Sat May 6:

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun May 7: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell