



Holy Martyrs | St. Jude | St. Gregory the Great | Sacred Heart

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

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### All That is Necessary for Evil to Continue...

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that all that is necessary for evil to continue is for good people to do nothing. There's commonsense in that. Saying nothing at all puts up no barriers to evil. We may not want it to continue, but we have an obligation to impede it and at the very least not to help it.



Let's take another school example. Imagine you're sitting at the lunch table and your friends are working out a plan on how to cheat on an upcoming test. Obviously, if you join in the conversation (or participate in the plan) you're guilty of cheating. But there's also a moral failure if at no point in the conversation you say, "That's wrong. You shouldn't do that." It's not just that silence implies consent, that it looks like you're okay with it even though you may not be interiorly. It's also that on a practical level, you've done nothing to oppose it. Just feeling like something is wrong isn't enough: you have to act accordingly.

A related but different problem is concealment. Let's say you know that your friends cheated on the test. You didn't participate, but you're aware. It would be wrong to conceal it. Now we all know that snitches get stitches, so it takes some gumption to step forward, but concealment helps the sin and makes you apart of it.

There are so many occasions in the course of a day in which someone will justify a behavior that is wrong (or just assume it's okay.) It's okay to be strategic on when you address it and how, but it's important to speak up. They should at least know that you don't approve. Hopefully they'll want to know why, in which case you have a good chance to talk with them more about it. In some cases, you might be the only voice of reason they have in their life and they might listen more than you think. Or they might not. Still, the bare minimum is we say something.

As I write, it occurs to me there's one final premise worth stating: the rules of right and wrong, good and evil, are universal. The laws of God apply no matter where we go or in what capacity we are acting. I think sometimes we like to think that we can conform to the rules of the place we're in; thus the government has its rules, our household has its own rules, and the church has its. But that's not how morality works. If something is morally wrong (not just forbidden, but wrong) then it holds regardless of where we are. We need to be conscious of the ways we contribute to the good and refuse to participate in evil no matter where we are.

– Joe Moreshead