

Faith Tidbits..
*a little food for thought
and some knowledge
about your
Catholic faith*

August 2009

This monthly series will answer questions you always wondered about or questions you never even thought to ask... all about our Catholic Faith. If you have a question you want answered, call Diane Hardick at 633-3672.

This month takes us a little deeper into our faith to those questions that we continue to ponder.

1. If God had a plan for all of creation, including human beings, why is there evil in the world?

God did not choose, in his wisdom, to create a world that was perfect. He desired to create a world "in a state of journeying" (CCC 302). All of creation is on a journey to God – to ultimate perfection – and with God – his divine presence always sustaining us, There is no quick or easy answer as to why evil exists. In the first chapter of Genesis it is stated that as God created the world "He saw how good it was." Yes, it is good, but because of all of creation is on a journey to ultimate perfection, and not there yet, we have earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and yes, we have evil. God did not create evil. God gave us the freedom to make our own choices. And although God gave us the ability to learn and to seek knowledge and understanding, human beings too often chose sin, and continue to choose sin even though Jesus Christ destroyed the chains that sin had on us. Thus evil exists. Human beings hate, kill, oppress, refuse to forgive, and evil exists. And just as we hear of him in the Garden in Genesis 3, Satan exists as well. "The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God, but became evil by their own doing." (CCC 391). Satan, the Devil, and all his works were destroyed through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, Satan and evil, are not infinite. Satan cannot prevent the building up of God's Kingdom. But Satan does still exist and can cause grave evil in the world out of his hatred for God and his kingdom in Jesus Christ (CCC 395). Yes, evil is a great mystery as we wonder why God would allow it to exist, but one thing we do know is that out of every evil, out of every wrong-doing, "God works for good with those who love him." (Romans 8:28).

2. We say, "God sent Jesus to die on the cross." How could any Father send his Son to die such a horrible death?

The Father's plan of redeeming love began the moment sin separated us from Him. We chose sin and over and over again turned our backs on God, although he continued to love us. From that moment God began his plan of salvation. Abraham responded to his call, and the chosen ones of Israel began to know him and love him and honor him. And then the time came for God to send His Son. From the first moment of his Incarnation, Jesus embraced the Mission of his Father to save all of God's people. He healed the sick; he taught of love and forgiveness; he challenged the self-righteous; he was a person of love and compassion. But no matter what he did, it was not enough. And so some decided he must die. Did the Father choose the cross? No, we did. We nailed him to the tree. In our sinfulness, in our inability to recognize what God was doing in and through Jesus, we chose the cross. The Father knew that no matter how we would respond, through his Son, all of creation would be saved. And because Jesus had so completely and totally embraced the Mission of his Father, he accepted the Cross. But God would have the last Word, despite our sinfulness. Thus he raised his Son from the dead, and through his death and resurrection, all of human kind has been saved.