

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Times
"The Problem with Evil"
Presented by: Fr. Kris

I. The story of Job

A. What was the story of Job about?

1. The story of Job is a theological treatment of the theme of innocent human suffering.
2. A question was raised at the beginning of the book of Job whether God's faithful are only so because of the blessings they receive, or will they remain faithful even if God's benefits are withdrawn from them.
3. A question is raised by the Satan (prosecuting attorney in court) and God, which is depicted as an oriental potentate allows Job to become the test case.
4. Job is suddenly afflicted by the loss of his wealth, death of his children, and personal illness, a series of friends argue that his misfortunes must be punishment for some sin.

II. The Problem with Evil

A. What is the problem with evil?

1. Moral Evil: This term is evidenced in original sin and personal sin.
2. Physical Evil: This type of evil is evidenced in phenomena such as natural disasters, pain, and physical debilitation due

to sickness, physical and mental disabilities and all sorts of accidents and mishaps that harm us.

3. Adam received original holiness and justice not simply for himself but for all humanity. By yielding to temptation and turning away from God, Adam's choice affected human nature. Thus, we are born into fallen state called "original sin," a reality contracted by us because we are human, not because we commit it. ([CCC 404](#)). We commit personal sin, which we are responsible for.
4. Physical evil is a consequence of original sin and is symbolized in sacred scripture by the loss of Eden. In spite of our experiences of this type of evil, we affirm that God is good and all-powerful.
5. Physical evil can be grasped by entering into the mystery of the great love that God has for us.
6. While we still experience physical evil, the mystery of innocent suffering epitomized by the cross is overcome in the resurrection. We are given a share in the resurrection of Christ and it becomes a beacon of hope and a source of consolation.
7. The most important response to the problem of evil and human suffering is the compassion of God poured out on us so richly in Christ, who himself suffers with us.