



Daily Reflections

December 28, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 2: 13-18

When the magi had departed, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt,
and stay there until I tell you.
Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."
Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night
and departed for Egypt.
He stayed there until the death of Herod,
that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled,
Out of Egypt I called my son.
When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi,
he became furious.
He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity
two years old and under,
in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi.
Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:
A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Christmas feast is based on a devastating tragedy, the slaughter of thousands of innocent babies. Why? Because of the envy and jealousy of an earthly King. Today, we must pause and pray for the thousands of babies who are slaughtered around the world out of convenience through abortion. May the Baby of Bethlehem pray for us and them.

Food for your Journey

What did Christmas cost Mary? It nearly cost her marriage to Joseph. Only the timely intervention of an angel convinced her betrothed not to do "the right thing" and send her away, but the loving thing and expose himself to ridicule.

What did Christmas cost Mary and Joseph together? It cost them their home. When they learned that Herod's soldiers would soon arrive, with infanticide on their minds, their brief sojourn to Bethlehem stretched into years of exile in Egypt.

What did Christmas cost the magi? Many months, perhaps even years, of arduous travel. And the shepherds? They had to risk descending from the high meadows into the town below, where they would be subject to abuse and ridicule from the more settled populace.

What's Christmas likely to cost us? A whopping big bill on our January credit-card statement?

Really? Is the cost of our Christmas even in the same league as these others?

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, While it is difficult to ponder the slaughter of innocent life back in your day as well as in our own, I resolve to do all that I can to protect human life from the first moment of conception. Amen.