

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Gen 4:1-15, 25

The man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, saying, “I have produced a male child with the help of the LORD.”

Next she gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel became a herder of flocks, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

In the course of time Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground, while Abel, for his part, brought the fatty portion of the firstlings of his flock.^a The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry and dejected.

Then the LORD said to Cain: Why are you angry? Why are you dejected? If you act rightly, you will be accepted; but if not, sin lies in wait at the door: its urge is for you, yet you can rule over it.

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out in the field.” When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the LORD asked Cain, Where is your brother Abel? He answered, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

God then said: What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! Now you are banned from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. If you till the ground, it shall no longer give you its produce. You shall become a constant wanderer on the earth.

Cain said to the LORD: “My punishment is too great to bear.

Look, you have now banished me from the ground. I must avoid you and be a constant wanderer on the earth. Anyone may kill me at sight.” Not so! the LORD said to him. If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged seven times. So the LORD put a mark* on Cain, so that no one would kill him at sight.

Adam again had relations with his wife, and she gave birth to a son whom she called Seth. “God has granted me another offspring in place of Abel,” she said, “because Cain killed him.”

The word of the Lord.

Monday Week 6 Ordinary Time

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jn 8:31-42

**Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him,
"If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

**They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham
and have never been enslaved to anyone.**

How can you say, 'You will become free'?"

**Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you,
everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.**

**A slave does not remain in a household forever,
but a son always remains.**

So if the Son frees you, then you will truly be free.

I know that you are descendants of Abraham.

But you are trying to kill me,

because my word has no room among you.

**I tell you what I have seen in the Father's presence;
then do what you have heard from the Father."**

They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham."

**Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children,
you would be doing the works of Abraham.**

But now you are trying to kill me,

**a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God;
Abraham did not do this.**

You are doing the works of your father!"

So they said to him, "We were not born of fornication.

We have one Father, God."

**Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me,
for I came from God and am here;**

I did not come on my own, but he sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Andy Andrews is an author of over 20 self-help and advice books which have sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide. His best selling book is titled *The Traveler's Gift*, and three of his books have appeared on the New York Times Bestseller List.

His most recent book, released in January of this year is titled: *How Do You Kill 11 Million People?* In it he details the number of deaths that occurred in the last century, highlighting in particular the people who were killed in the Holocaust under the Nazis in Germany.

Mr. Andrews points out that most of what led to the Holocaust wasn't done at gunpoint. He indicates that the 11,283,000 people who died in the concentration camps pretty much went voluntarily.

And, in this very short book, Mr. Andrews gives us a very short answer to his question: "How do you kill 11 million people?"

His answer is quite simply - you lie to them.

The Jewish people in Germany were first put behind barbed wire "for their protection." They were herded onto cattle cars with apologies, but told that there were enemy troops advancing and there was no time. By the time these people realized the terrible truth - it was already too late.

In addition to the Jews, the Nazis also targeted other minorities, as well as the infirm and ill, religious leaders, drifters, and those who were not perfect enough to be part of this new society. They were all taken away "for their protection," or "for their own good" ... and most people bought into the lie.

Mr. Andrews cites other statistics on the number of deaths over the past century. The wars, the genocides, the massacres. And the numbers don't lie. This has been a very bloody 100 years.

He points out two other interesting statistics. First, that all of our high government officials amount to about 500-some people. President, Vice-President, Supreme Court, Senate, Congress. As well as the fact that in the last 25 years, barely half of all eligible voters have registered to vote or have even voted.

Now, I'm not going to talk issues or parties or candidates.

What I want to emphasize is that we boast of our freedoms in this country. People are busting down our borders to come here - even in a bad economy. Yet we aren't free unless we know Jesus Christ, who says.

*If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

In an article about Blessed Pope John Paul II, an author writes:

when John Paul II reads the bloody history of the twentieth century through this distinctive lens, he sees in the carnage of our times unmistakable evidence of what happens when a genuine humanism that affirms the dignity and value of every human person is replaced by hubris masquerading as humanism. And what happens, of course, is that men and women are reduced to being the objects of others' manipulative (and often lethal) power, in the service of racial, ethnic, ideological, or class ends.

In our own times, we joke about how politicians are liars - and we rant when the opposing candidate lies about our candidate ... but look the other way when our candidate lies.

We need to first recognize our own human dignity in Christ, and start living in the truth. The truth is not an idea or a slogan - but the Truth is a person and that person is Jesus Christ. We must live and love and exist in the Truth - and that Truth, with a capital "T" will make us free.

Once we have done this, we must recognize that we are our brother's and sister's keeper. The blood of too many deaths cries out to God. Deaths of soldiers, civilians, innocents, victims, children, fetuses.

Our Lady in her apparitions at Fatima said: "*People must stop offending God, for He is already too much offended.*" She also told us to pray, do penance, offer reparation, and make sacrifices for the conversion of sinners. We are too afraid to offend people in our politically correct society, yet we have no problem offending God. Why is that?

Mr. Andrews' book "*How Do You Kill 11 Million People?*" Is subtitled: "*Why the Truth Matters More Than You Think*". We know that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The subtitle may as well read: "*Why Jesus Christ Matters More Than We Think.*"

We must eat, sleep, live, and breathe the Truth - Jesus Christ.

There's an old saying: "*If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.*" Then let us make a stand for Christ. We are our brother's keeper. We are our sister's keeper. Let us stop offending God, and start living our lives as the Saints our Baptism calls us all to be.

May God bless you; and may God bless America.