

HOMILY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8, 2020

Today we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception means that God created Mary from the time of conception without original sin. The Church teaches that Mary never sinned. This is not explicit in Sacred Scripture but is implied in the Gospel reading today when we hear: “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” Who else did God create without original sin? Adam and Eve were also created without original sin. In the beginning they were created to live in total happiness with God in the Garden without pain, anxiety, shame or fear. In the beginning there was no sin in the world. Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve. They both disobeyed God and ate from the tree which God had forbidden them to eat from. When God calls out to Adam, he said: “I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.” When sin came into the world, so did fear and shame. Sin created distance between human beings and God. It also created shame and fear among human beings. Because sin came into the world, human beings had to protect themselves from one another. But, in the beginning this was not so.

The Immaculate Conception reminds us of what we were created to be. We were created to live in total happiness with God. Adam, Eve and Mary were all created by God without original sin. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Mary chose not to sin. We have to make the same decision in our lives. We can choose to be full of grace like Mary or we can choose to sin like Adam and Eve. The choice is ours. God created Mary to be without sin so that she could be the Mother of Jesus. Jesus came into our world on that first Christmas through Mary. Jesus created each one of us so that he can come into the world through us. We are the hands

and feet of Jesus in the world today. We allow Jesus to come into the world through us when we choose to love. We prevent Jesus from coming into the world through us when we do the opposite of love. And what is the opposite of love? It is not hate. The opposite of love is indifference, doing nothing. So, are you going to follow Mary's example? Are you going to be full of grace? Are you going to choose to love or are you going to choose indifference?