

HOMILY
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, B
by Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

Do you ever sense that there are two opposite-minded people
running around inside of you . . .
and that they're in competition with one another?

Might think of these two as a little angel and a little devil
inside your head, your heart

For example:

Let's say you decide it would be good to go on a diet – you
decide it would be good to cut down on sweets.
There is this part of you that says "I'm not going to eat sweets today."
Then you go to the fridge and you discover this beautiful lemon meringue pie.
There is this "other voice," this demon, that says things like:
"What's one little piece of pie going to hurt?"
"Let's start the diet tomorrow."

So there's this angel and this devil inside of each us –
perhaps sitting on each of our shoulders.

The "devil part" takes all sorts of shapes and forms – "We are legion."

- Demon of bitterness, impatience, despair
- Demon of gun violence paralysis
 - 33,000 per year;
 - nearly 20,000 suicide by gun;
 - 20 mass shootings already this year;
 - more than 1500 since Sandy Hook.Communities with strong gun safety laws are, in fact, safer.
- Demon of a growing plutocracy – concentration of wealth and power.
 - The richest 1 percent in the United States now own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent.
 - The average employee needs to work more than a month

to earn what the CEO earns in one hour.

Since 2009 (beginning of recovery), 95 percent of economic gains went to the wealthiest 1 percent.

- Demon gender inequality – women are 19 percent of federal elected officials.
- Demon of racism, nationalism, intolerance.
- Demon of addiction – alcohol, cigarettes, pornography, pain pills.

So, am I talking about “the devil?” Is believing in “the devil” an article of our faith?

You don’t have to believe in a horned figure to know that evil is capable of possessing us at times.

A community of converted people is God’s secret weapon against the power of evil in the world.

So Jesus gathers us here and sends us out to help drive out the demons.