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*Do it Anyway!*

This season of the Christian calendar reminds us of the three Magi, or wise men. Our scriptures tell us that they followed a star across the desert to find the Christ child. The Gospel record of their travels says that en route to Bethlehem they encountered King Herod who was plotting and planning against the child.

History attests to Herod's extreme cruelty. He treated his subjects contemptuously. He murdered his wife and several of his own children. And realizing he had but little time to live, and suspecting that the Israelites would rejoice at this death, he ordered the execution of one hundred of the outstanding citizens of Jerusalem, so that as his own funeral took place, people would still be crying.

Unfortunately, we must concede that King Herod was not the only evil human being in history. Such evil still exists today. How can we ever hope to understand it? How can we live with faithful integrity in a world where such people live and such acts are committed?

Some time back we came across a poem which may have been written by Mother Teresa entitled "Anyway" that we think offers some helpful perspective for us. It includes these lines:

"People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self centered. Forgive them anyway! If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway! What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway! The good you do today will often be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway! Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give the world your best anyway! You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway!"

It's hard to know how to deal with the "King Herods" in our own lives and in our world. And we may, indeed, have difficulty in over-coming all the evil that exists. But, of course, that's not the point, is it? We are not necessarily expected to succeed. But we are expected to try. Those people responsible for terrorist bombings and oppression and greed will continue to live in this world. But as people of faith we must not let them have the last word. We must not let the presence of evil in all its many forms cause us to back down or step back or give up or go away. Our help is needed in countering evil in whatever way and whatever form we can.

A hungry, hurting world still longs for a little light to guide it. Like the magi of two thousand years ago, we pray you will follow the light, and despite the difficulty that the journey entails, do it anyway!