



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, December 24, 2023

We Have a Choice - How Will We Choose to Live?

A story for our times

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all.

One is Evil – It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good – It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

A declaration for our times

Seventy-five years ago, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly announced the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**. Eight countries abstained; no country voted against it. However, it was not legally binding.

... The final document began with a preamble explaining that a UDHR was necessary because "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world," and because "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind." Because "the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people," the preamble said, "**human rights should be protected by the rule of law.**"

The thirty articles that followed established that "**all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights**...without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" and regardless "of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs."

.... But the UDHR remains aspirational. "As we look at the first 75 years of the UDHR," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "we recognize what we've accomplished in this time, but also know that much work remains.... **On its 75th anniversary, the UDHR must continue to be our guiding light as we strive to create the world in which we want to live.** Its message is as important today as it was 75 years ago: human rights belong to everyone, everywhere." (Heather Cox Richardson, *Letters from An American*, 12/10/23)

Which wolf will we feed? A blessed Christmas to all!

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.