

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

First & Last Name: _____

Class: _____ Today's date: _____

Saint of the Day: _____

(Pray for me!)

Instructions: For this assignment I want you to think through the following questions and then give the best, thought-out answers you can for each of them. After giving your best answers to these questions, seek out the help of someone else (NOT a classmate) for *at least one* of these questions. You can use the Internet or ask someone else (a parent or older sibling, for instance) for help. Please list the source(s) for any answer help you receive (for example, write www.Catholic.com or "My dad" next to the answer you wrote).

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Premise 1: God must be omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnibenevolent (all-good).

Premise 2: An omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnibenevolent (all-good) being could eliminate evil.

Premise 3: Evil exists.

Conclusion: Therefore, God does not exist.

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think we can have a full, 100% complete answer to the problem of evil? Why or why not?

2. If, as it says in the book of Genesis, everything God made was good (angels, humans, plants, rocks, molecules, etc.), where did evil come from?

3. Why would God give us free will if He knew we would sometimes use it to make bad choices (i.e. Bullying, gossiping, stealing, drunk driving, killing, etc.)?

4. Why is there natural evil? (Natural evil = Evil that comes from things in nature, such as: earthquakes, tornadoes, cancer, trees falling down, etc.)

5. What might be some good reasons for God occasionally allowing evil and suffering to occur?

6. What kind of answer (spoken or unspoken) do you think Jesus gave to the problem of evil?