Problem of Evil-Theodicy

Greek Words 'Theo'-'Dike' (God/Justice) Reconciling an *Almighty* and *All Good* God
(Where does evil come from and why does it exist?)

1st Realization must face the fact of sin. We live in a fallen world.

The one, most easily verified doctrine of the Catholic Faith is Original Sin.

Adam and Eve-Original Sin- Bad first Step, start on wrong foot, off-balance

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 "For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life."

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned"

Romans 11: 31-32 "Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may [now] receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all…"

2nd Realization: God has entered this world with us to solve the problem

Solution-Redemption through Jesus, as Lamb of God who takes away sin of the world

John 1:29 "John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the ***sin of the world***." Baptism - Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt 4:17)

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Some understand this to mean, "God so loved the world, he stepped down, and got involved! God put His skin in the game!"

Dignity of Freedom: Made in the Image of God/Problem of Freedom

Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,"

Ezekiel 18:25-26 "You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair? Are not your ways unfair? When the just turn away from justice to do evil and die, on account of the evil they did they must die.
Then onto Verse 30 "Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, all of you according to your ways—oracle of the Lord GOD. Turn, turn back from all your crimes, that they may not be a cause of sin for you ever again."

Good Overcomes Evil: Mercy Overcomes Misery

Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Bad things do happen to Good People

Luke 13:1-5 "At that time some people who were present there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. He said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

John 9:2-3 "His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Power of Goodness to Convert, or Redeem, or Transform Evil & Sin

1 Peter 3:9 "Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing."

Matthew 6:12-13 "and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one."

John 17:15-16 "I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world."

Romans 12:19 "Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.""

Matthew 7:3-5 "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove that splinter from your eye,' while the wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye."