

**Homily for the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Springfield Mass
Monday of the First Week of Lent
February 18, 2013**

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Springfield, Illinois**

**+ Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

S.S.P.: We are called to put words of love into action.

- I. Article in Feb. 13 issue of the *Catholic Times* re James Cardinal Stafford, Archbishop Emeritus of Denver and former head of the Pontifical Council for the Laity
 - A. Article said, “*Roe* was one of a series of cultural, social, political and legal upheavals during the 1960’s and early 1970’s that left him deeply disillusioned with his native land and alienated from a country that he said once offered unparalleled openness to the proclamation of the Gospel.”
 - B. Stafford quote: “I don’t really feel as at home now in the United States as I did prior to the 60’s. . . . I weep for the United States . . . as Jesus wept for Jerusalem.”
 - C. I share his feelings.

- II. How to resolve dilemma between these feelings and desire to be patriotic:
 - A. Distinguish between our country as a sovereign state and our government, which can be changed
 - B. Remember that our lasting city is not in this world

- III. The late American psychiatrist and author, M. Scott Peck, wrote, “Love is not a feeling; it is an action, an activity. . . . it is correct to say, ‘love is as love does.’”
 - A. Today’s readings make this connection between words of love and actions of love.
 - B. Leviticus: “You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly.”
 - C. Jesus’ description of the last judgment: we will be judged by our actions.