

**Homily Outline for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - Cycle B**  
**January 21, 2018**

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

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S.S.P.: We are all called to repentance and detachment from our sins.

- I. Cartoon in the *National Catholic Register* shows a fashionably-dressed young man.
  - A. In the first panel he says, "I support abortion rights, free birth control and access to porn."
  - B. In the second panel he says, "I support respect for women."
  - C. The 'disconnect' between the two panels is obvious for those who truly understand what is involved here.
  - D. Rather than promote respect for women, abortion, birth control and porn do just the opposite: they degrade women.
- II. Fifty years ago, Pope Paul made this connection clear in his Encyclical Letter, *Humanae Vitae* issued July 25, 1968.
  - A. Read excerpt (attached).
  - B. All of his predictions have come true, making this is truly prophetic document.
- III. In fact, abortion is becoming a more common approach to birth control.
  - A. The *Chicago Tribune* ran a front-page story last Friday (January 19, 2018) reporting that 31% of abortion patients now choose "pill-induced abortions" over surgical abortion.
  - B. These abortion pills can be obtained from doctors via teleconference without actually seeing the doctor in person.

- IV. This past Friday about a dozen busloads of young people from our diocese traveled to Washington D.C. for the March for Life, where they joined tens of thousands of people calling for an end to abortion on demand, which was made legal in this country in 1973 by the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*.
- A. There was not a lot of publicity about this.
  - B. Not a lot of publicity either about a major published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* article last month on December 7, 2017 concluding that contraception increases the risk of breast cancer for women. (Read excerpt.)
- V. The proper response to this situation is found in today's Scripture: repentance and detachment from our sins.
- A. *Jonah* 3:1-5, 10 – The Ninevites turned from their evil way.
  - B. *Mark* 1:14-20 – Jesus begins His public ministry with the message, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
  - C. He then calls the apostles to leave everything and follow Him.
  - D. We are all called to repentance and detachment from our sins.
    1. “Repent” means to regret what we have done and change our behavior.
    2. “Detachment” means to leave behind whatever takes us away from God.
- VI. Cardinal George: “Our society permits everything and forgives nothing.”
- A. In contrast, the Church teaches that many things are forbidden by the moral law, but there is nothing that cannot be forgiven except sins for which we do not repent.
  - B. Our culture is also confused about the true meaning of mercy.
    1. Mercy does not mean that God condones our sins as many would like to believe (e.g., those who argue that sins like abortion, birth control, and same-sex relations are not sins).
    2. Mercy does mean that we recognize our sinful behavior, repent and turn away from sin. Then God will “repent” of His intent to punish us and will forgive our sins.
- VII. God gives us His grace in the Eucharist to turn from all that keeps us from Him.
- VIII. May God give us this grace. Amen.