

March 14th, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This morning we continue our examination of the Seven Deadly Sins as part of the Bishop's Note. So far we've examined Pride, Envy, Covetousness and Wrath. Today we look at the sin that gets so much attention in our age and our culture - Lust.

The Catholic Encyclopedia defines Lust as: *"The inordinate craving for, or indulgence of, the carnal pleasure which is experienced in the human organs of generation."* (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09438a.htm>) I don't know about you but that sounds like a sterile definition to me. I prefer the definition provided in St. Augustine's Prayer Book: *"LUST is the misuse of sex for personal gratification, debasing it from the holy purpose for which God has given it to us."* The Sin of Lust may be lived out in the flesh but it is truly a spiritual sin, transforming physical pleasure into an idol to be worshiped.

Jesus tells us that acting upon lustful thoughts is not the only way to sin. It is also allowing the heart and eye to wander... *"But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* (Mt. 5:28)

St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth that lived in the midst of the literal worship of Lust with the Temple of Aphrodite being a major institution in Corinth... *"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body."* (1 Cor. 6:18)

Sadly, we too live in a world that has made an idol of lust...we don't visit the Temple of Aphrodite but we go to the temple of the intranet. A quick google search of keywords used in google searches showed that pornographic sites rated six out of the top twenty-five searches.

Internet pornography can be compared to a very serious bacterial infection with only one antibiotic that will work to kill it - and that is God the Holy Spirit!

Again in St. Augustine's Prayerbook there is a section on preparation for confession that asks the penitent to invite the Holy Spirit to assist him in to examine his conscience. In the section on the sin of Lust, the penitent is asked to examine the different aspects of Lust and they are:



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**Unchastity.** Violation of the Church's marriage laws. Lack of consideration for one's partner in the use of the marital relationship. Refusal to fulfill the purpose of Holy Matrimony in the bringing forth and giving adequate care to children, or to take our full share in the responsibilities or work involved. Unfaithfulness to one's spouse. Sexual indulgence outside matrimony, in thought or act, alone or with others. **Immodesty.** Stimulation of sexual desire in others by word, dress, or actions; or in one's self by reading, pictures, or fantasies. Collecting or recounting dirty stories. **Prudery.** Fear of sex or condemnation of it as evil in itself. Refusal to seek adequate sexual instruction or the attempt to prevent others from obtaining it. Stimulation of excessive and harmful curiosity by undue secrecy. Repression of sex. **Cruelty.** Deliberate infliction of pain, mental or physical. Tormenting of animals. (*Saint Augustine's Prayer Book Holy Cross Publications First Edition 1947*)

As you prepare for Easter I encourage you to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As you do I pray that you too would invite God the Holy Spirit to open up your heart and mind both to show you the areas of sin you your life that you need to turn over to the Lord AND to experience the Grace of God's forgiving and transforming Love!

I pray you a blessed and holy Lent!

Bishop Menees

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[March 2013 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican](#)

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican  
for current news of the Diocese!

[Diocesan Calendar](#)

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events!

**March 16th** - Diocesan Council @ 10 a.m.

Anglican 4th Day @ St. Michael's in Ridgecrest

**March 17th** - Bishop @ Christ Church in Cambria

**March 21st** - Mass of Chrism @ 10 a.m.

**March 24th** - Bishop @ Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe

**March 31st** - Bishop @ St. James Cathedral

**April 29th - May 1st** - Clergy Retreat

**August 2-4th** - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat  
at Camp San Joaquin

