

February 21st, 2013

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Last week we began the Season Lent with the Ash Wednesday liturgy - when the faithful are called to self examination with these words: *"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word."*

When I was eighteen years old I started taking my spiritual life more seriously and developed a Rule of Life in accordance with the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis. That Rule of Life required my availing myself to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As part of that self examination my priest, Fr. Robert Woodfield, suggested that I prepare for the sacrament by examining the Seven Deadly Sins, for which I discovered I was guilty of all of them! This Lent I would like to examine those sins with you over the Season of Lent and invite you to ask the question... "Am I guilty of this sin?" If the answer is "Yes" then the answer is Jesus!

No one really knows who penned the Seven Deadly Sins for the first time though most argue that they date back to the fourth century. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica it was Gregory the Great (Pope from AD 590-604) who first listed them as: Pride, Greed, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Wrath & Sloth. These sins are considered deadly because when we submit to these sins they are thought to attack the Grace that we have received. Indeed if we give in to these sins fully we may lose our salvation. There is debate about whether one may abandon their salvation but if it is possible giving into these sins would be the way.

On just about everyone's list **Pride** is the first of the Deadly Sins as it harkens back to the "Original" sin of Adam & Eve - the desire to be like God - putting our pleasure - our status - our well being as our primary objective in place of God.

Of course, we are generally not so crass as to even acknowledge that Pride is an issue instead we rationalize - we say that we can only count on #1 - we refuse to recognize that all that we have and all that we are is a result of God's goodness not our own.

Pride leads to exaggerating our abilities and our accomplishments and leads us when we are not successful to play the victim because we are sure that if the playing field were level we would have not only



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succeeded but been victorious. Pride can even cause us to look at others and claim that they are prideful without recognizing our own pride. We can become very good at that game.

Sadly, sometimes our pride doesn't simply draw us away from church, but to church for the outward expression of being religious and not the inward and spiritual grace that we receive because we are blinded to our need for God in our lives.

As you begin the process of self-examination this Lent begin by asking yourself about the sin of Pride.

I pray you a blessed and Holy Lent,

Bishop Menees

PS. For Lent I am suspending my series on the 39 Articles of Religion. However, I will get back to them I promise!

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[February 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!

February 23th - Deacon's Day @ 9 a.m. at St. James Cathedral
February 24th - Bishop @ Jesus the Good Shepherd in Henderson,
NV
April 29th - May 1st - Clergy Retreat
August 2-4th - Anglican Church Women's Annual Retreat
at Camp San Joaquin

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