

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT B HOMILY

Infidelity can be defined as the act or process of being unfaithful to another person or breaking faith with a religious or non-religious set of values.

It is such a serious offense that priests often prefer to avoid discussing infidelity and the consequences of infidelity because they fear rejection and being targeted. What do I have to lose? What harm could I possibly do? After all, I'm only a Roman Catholic priest. I take to heart the words of the prophets; especially Jeremiah, who warned what fate awaits the shepherds of the flock who fail to call sin a sin and fail to admonish and call sinners to repent.

In the first reading today from the Book of Chronicles (36:14-16, 19-23) it is written: "In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the Lord's temple, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem."

The building we worship in is not the Lord's temple in Jerusalem but this does not exempt us from God's wrath and judgment when we too add infidelity to infidelity; tolerating and/or practicing all the abominations of the nations. We are subject to God's commands, we are His servants and His children, and we have no right to rewrite what God has written. We cannot hide from God and our responsibilities by taking refuge in the sanctuaries of the impious. We have no excuse for our infidelity to God's commands and his precepts.

I am a sinner and I fall woefully short of being completely blameless in the sight of God. I fear God's eternal judgment for my soul because I have committed grave sins in my life. Yet, I seek His forgiveness and I seek to amend my life with the help of His grace. I still have a long battle ahead in combatting the sins that plague me.

I will keep trying to triumph over my sins and encourage others to do the same. I have not yet reached the finish line of life on earth and while in this body I will continue to run the race; never giving up the hope that is mine in Jesus Christ. Part of running the race as a priest means being faithful to the admonitions of the prophets and so I desire to focus on several infidelities; infidelities that have unfortunately become acceptable behaviors exhibited within our nation and our own island communities.

There is a lot of infidelity to God today; it is even found in churches which profess to be Christian. The infidelities are clearly visible; specifically the infidelities of abortion in cases where the mother's life is not in jeopardy, same-sex marriages and unions, the sanction of homosexual and lesbian behavior, and assisted suicide.

I prefer to call abortion by its real name: infanticide; the killing of children. Do you really expect God to approve of the killing of the children He wants to bring into the world? Infidelity. Infanticide is a monstrous infidelity to God's commands and precepts. What a perversion of God's gift of human life.

I remind you of the churches which openly advertised their support for same sex marriage in the State of Washington. I remind you of the churches who have and continue to ordain men and women who are openly and practicing homosexuals and lesbians. I remind you of the fact that some of these ministers are married, in the eyes of the state, to their same-sex partners; partners in infidelity to God's commands. Some of their same-sex "wives" and "husbands" are fellow ministers in their churches. All of this is taking place with the support of their church's hierarchy. Infidelity. Homosexual and lesbian acts are a perversion of the tenet that all human bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Same-sex marriage is a desecration of the purpose and the ends of marriage.

Assisted suicide is not death with dignity. It is a mortal sin to procure assisted suicide for oneself or to assist another in procuring assisted suicide. It puts souls in jeopardy of eternal damnation. Pope John Paul II's death was authentic death with dignity. His death was a holy death. He bore the cross of terminal illness and bore it with incredible dignity. He did not hide his face from us in the final months of his life. He shared his death with the whole world in order to free the non-evangelized and the evangelized from the yoke of assisted suicide.

Infidelity. Assisted suicide is a slap in the face of God who created each person in His image and likeness.

Infidelity to God and His precepts. Adding infidelity to infidelity among the nations. It is Satan's work. Satan has deceived many people of faith. Satan isn't called the Father of Lies for no reason. It is a lie to profess that the above stated infidelities are in accordance with God's commands and precepts. It is a lie to profess that one loves God and Jesus Christ and vice-versa when one flaunts the Word of God. A lie is a lie and God knows a lie when He hears it; and so do you. Wake up! Stop being deceived by Satan.

Repentance. Repentance is what is required for all of us who sin. Authentic repentance requires commitment to turn away from sin and to live in accordance with all of God's commands. Repentance is not an option when one sins. Repentance has been defined and ordered by God. Where there is no authentic repentance there exists no hope for salvation as promised by Jesus Christ. I for gay and lesbian men and women serving in Christian church ministries, both the ordained and non-ordained, to repent of any sinful lifestyle, where it exists, and to lead a chaste and celibate life; for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Heed the lessons of today's first reading in Chronicles. Infidelity to God is infidelity multiplied exponentially. God punishes infidelity. Abortion (infanticide), same-sex marriages and unions, homosexual and lesbian acts, and euthanasia (assisted suicide): all of these are grave infidelities present in the world.

We, who are Catholic, may not give sanctuary to these infidelities. Ours must be a call to repentance and conversion for ourselves and others. We must love the sinner but hate the sin. There is time to repent but time is running out. God will not let these infidelities continue unpunished; and the innocent will suffer the consequences along with the guilty. God has punished entire nations in the past. The lesson in Chronicles is meant as a warning to us. Repent and be saved. Reform your lives. Help others to do the same.