

Homily Guide
Sunday, March 20, 2011
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SEVEN DEADLY SINS

- 1) Anger
- 2) Greed
- 3) Sloth
- 4) Pride
- 5) Lust
- 6) Envy
- 7) Gluttony

Where do the Deadly Sins come from? The Traditional 7 deadly sins have their roots in Sacred Scripture, but are not seen together in any one passage. We see in Scripture that God has listed particular sins that are especially egregious.

Proverbs 6:16 - 18 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies, and a person who stirs up conflict in the community

Another list, given this time in **Paul's Epistle to the Galatians** (Galatians 5:19-21), includes more of the traditional seven sins, although the list is substantially longer: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, "and such like". Since Saint Paul goes on to say that the persons who commit these sins "shall not inherit the Kingdom of God", they are usually listed as (possible) mortal sins rather than Capital Vices.

In 375 AD a monk named **Evagrius Ponticus** created a list of "Eight patterns of evil thought" that lead to sin: Gluttony, greed, discouragement, sorrow, lust, anger, vainglory and pride.

In 590 AD **Pope Gregory the Great** combined "Discouragement and Sorrow" to make "**Sloth**." he also combined "vainglory and pride" into simply "**Pride**" and added "Envy" to make the Seven Deadly Sins.

Description of Seven Deadly Sins

Anger - Only Deadly Sin that does not necessarily have its root in selfishness. Anger, also known as "wrath" can be associated with injustice in the world. Dante describes wrath as "Love of justice that is perverted to revenge and spite." Anger/Wrath is the inability to see that others are created in the image and likeness of God and has its root in the desire to control others. Anger is also a sin that can be manifested inwardly, rather than outward. A hatred of self and a lack of seeing God's image in yourself. A hatred of self that is related to the inability to control oneself.

Greed - An overwhelming desire for Wealth, Power or Status. We generally associate it with money and power, but many people commit the sin of Greed by desiring to be liked by others so much that they ignore what is true for the sake of being "liked." Greed can also manifest itself in disloyalty, betrayal and treason to gain advantage, power or wealth.

Sloth - Is the failure to utilize one's talents and gifts for the Kingdom of God. It is not simply being "lazy." God gave us gifts to be used for His Kingdom. A person can work hard 18 hours a day and still be guilty of the sin of Sloth if that work is not for the glory of God. Sloth can be described as a failure to love God through our works.

Pride - Probably the most serious of the deadly sins and generally the source of all the other deadly sins (except maybe Anger). Pride can be an excessive love of self, or the lack of acknowledgement of others' good works and worth. If you never say "Thank you" or "Good Job" you are guilty of pride. Dante's definition was "love of self perverted to hatred and contempt for one's neighbor." Pride is the sin that caused Satan to fall and become the devil.

Lust - Usually thought of as an excessive desire of a sexual nature. However; Aristotle viewed lust as "Excessive love of others, which therefore renders love and devotion to God as secondary." If we love a person or persons more than God we commit the sin of Lust.

Envy - Is the desire to have what others have or deprive another of their property because out of spite. Dante describes Envy as the "desire to deprive other men of theirs." This is also given to us in the 10 Commandment. "Thou shall not covet thy neighbors wife or goods."

Gluttony - Is the overconsumption of anything to the point of waste. We traditionally associate gluttony with food, but it can be applied to any wasteful consumption; electricity, gas, money, power, clothing, land, etc. When we commit the sin of gluttony we deprive others of their bare necessity for living.

