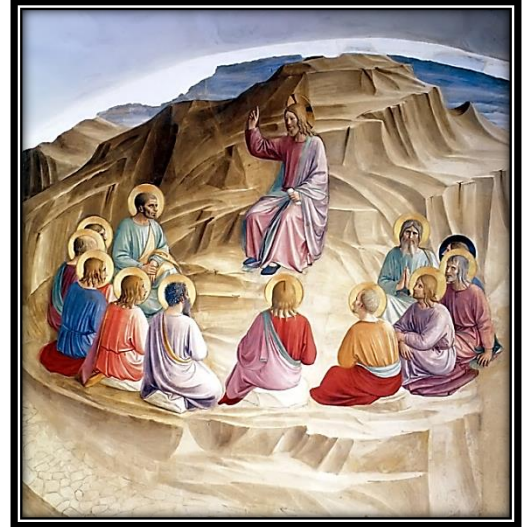




CATHOLICS HAVE NOT HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID

Between last Sunday (VI Sunday in Ordinary Time) and this Sunday (VII Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sunday Mass-goers throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre and in fact the world, heard Jesus say (no less than six times) in His treatise on the Commandments during His *Sermon on the Mount*: “**You have heard that it was said ...**” He then went on to shed Light on what was said regarding *killing and anger, adultery and lust, divorce and marriage, false oaths, vows, and swearing, eyes and teeth/justice and retaliation, and neighbours and enemies* (cf. Saint Matthew V:17-48).

What is interesting and important to note about this portion of the sermon is that Jesus takes it for granted that His listeners “heard that it was said ...”. In other words, His listeners knew the teaching about the Commandments (cf. Exodus XX) that He came “not to abolish but to fulfill” (Saint Matthew V:17). That premise unfortunately, can no longer be taken for granted.



The breakdown can be observed in the classrooms of our dwindling Catholic Schools (dwindling in part because **Catholics have not heard that it was said** “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28) and are contracepting against the lives that in centuries past would have taken their place behind the desk), but also in the homes of our shrinking families. From just two examples, it is apparent that Catholics have not heard that it was said:

At the Beginning of Life

“Contraception is morally wrong not simply because of its direct link to abortion; it is wrong in itself. In his 1968 encyclical Humanae Vitae, Pope Paul VI gives an authoritative definition of contraception as “every action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible.” Paul VI goes on to reaffirm the Church’s constant teaching that such actions are intrinsically evil (intrinsic inonestum), explaining that contraception violates “the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act.” (<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/contraception/articles-and-publications/contraception-and-abortion-the-underlying-link.cfm>)

At the End of Life

“When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority. ...

... The conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted. ... In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects. These courses of action cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation.” (Ad resurgendum cum Christo 5-7)