

**Homily Outline for the  
March for Life Diocesan Pilgrim Mass  
January 19, 2018**

**Saint Peter Church  
Washington, D.C.**

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Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

S.S.P.: We are all called to give ourselves totally to the Lord.

- I. Why are we here?
  - A. Many reasons
    1. To give witness to human life from the moment of conception
    2. To support each other
    3. To lobby politicians
    4. To pray
  - B. Other reasons
    1. Because we were asked
    2. It seemed it would be fun
  - C. My reason:
    1. To call you to a deeper commitment to the pro-life movement
    2. To call you to a deeper commitment to the Lord
  
- II. Before we protest that we are already deeply committed, let us recall St. Peter's protests to Jesus that he would never deny Him.
  - A. This is not a "once and done" deal, not "been there, done that."
  - B. To be pro-life is a life-time commitment.
  
- III. Test of our commitment: are we willing to follow the Church's teaching on contraception as well as abortion?
  - A. What's the connection?
  - B. Legally: *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) set the stage for *Roe v. Wade* (1973).
  - C. Medically: *New England Journal of Medicine* article (Dec. 7, 2017) concluding that contraception increases the risk of breast cancer for women.
  - D. Morally: Pope Paul VI's Encyclical Letter, *Humanae Vitae* (1968 - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary).
  
- IV. We are all called to give ourselves totally to the Lord - cf. Diocesan Synod and today's Gospel parable about the rich young man (*Matthew* 19:16-30).
  
- V. May God give us this grace. Amen.