

❖ **Question**

Dear Deacon Jim,

We should be alarmed at the rise of Satanic worship in Hollywood and the music industry which is influencing our youth. Do you agree that this should be addressed by our clergy in future homilies or addressing these parishioners?

❖ **Response**

Certainly, Satanic worship is very real and constitutes a dangerous influence on the well-being of not only our youth but adults as well. It can be found not only in Satanic music, various movies, and television shows but in some video games, social media, and other platforms.

In my opinion, first and foremost the primary responsibility in the fight against these influences begins with ourselves and at home on the part of the parents of the youth. Unfortunately, the Power of Evil is a part of today's "real" world and is being downplayed and not being taken seriously. As Catholics in our Baptismal promises, we have renounced Satan, all his works, and his empty promises of the kingdom of darkness. In these Baptismal promises, we profess our faith in Jesus Christ and the Church.

I do not believe that I am not in a position to speak on behalf of all clergy. However, it would seem to some degree, either directly or indirectly (such as saying something to effect "in today's society and challenges", referring to keeping our Baptismal promises, parental responsibilities, etc.) it is the intent of addressing this issue avoiding the many evils by practicing our Catholic Christian faith. Not only does each homilist have a unique style but should also take the specific audience into account when preparing the homily and choosing the proper words. I would think that is specific to Satanic worship tied in with selected scripture readings can be a consideration as part of the homily. Additionally, this issue can also be addressed in other ways to the parishioners such as through Faith Formation, Adult education, and other parish-sponsored liturgical programs.

Deacon Jim