

Humanae Vitae : 41 Years

This July marks the 41st anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*. In this encyclical, Pope Paul VI re-affirmed the church's opposition to the growing use of contraception in the world. As this is often the most difficult teaching for many Catholics (and non-Catholics) to accept, it is a good idea to revisit *Humanae Vitae* and reflect on the reasons behind the church's opposition to artificial contraception.

This opposition stems from the church's deep reverence for the marital act. Indeed, the church teaches that sex has both unitive and procreative meaning for the husband and wife. In *Humanae Vitae*, the church adamantly states "that each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life." What about the unitive aspect? Certainly the church recognizes the significance of the unitive aspect of sex but believes that the two (procreative and unitive) are inherently linked. Separating the two will have, and has had, great consequences.



Janet Smith explains these consequences in her article "Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later". In it she writes:

We have lost sight of the fact that sexual intercourse, making love, and making babies are inherently connected and for good reason. In our times, sexual relations are treated casually; no great commitment is implied in having sexual intercourse with another; babies are treated as an unwelcome intrusion on the sexual act. The Church opposes this attitude and insists that sexual intercourse and having children are intimately connected; that sexual intercourse implies a great commitment, that children are an inherent part of that commitment, and that both commitment and children are wonderful gifts.

She goes on to point out that artificial birth control has facilitated the sexual revolution and all the evils that must follow rendering something, that's very essence if full of "weighty meaning", into the realm of trivial must bring.

As we reflect on *Humanae Vitae* this month, let us remember

that nothing we do is ever apart from God and the mission he has called us to on Earth. This includes our most intimate relationships. Pope Paul VI stated in *Humanae Vitae*: "The question of human procreation...involves more than the limited aspects specific to such disciplines as biology, psychology, demography or sociology. It is the whole man and the whole mission to which he is called that must be considered: both its natural, earthly aspects and its supernatural, eternal aspects."

The full text of *Humanae Vitae* can be found on the Vatican website at: www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html

Check out page two of this newsletter for information on NFP Awareness Week July 19-25!



TLC is Back!

We are excited to announce the return of the TLC newsletter! My name is Joy Dorsten and I am the new editor of this newsletter.

I need your input! Tell me what is important to you. Please send any topics, articles, questions, suggestions and letters to *e-mail*:

jdorsten@gmail.com
or

USPS:

199 Letts Ave.

Sunbury, OH 43074

I look forward to hearing from you!

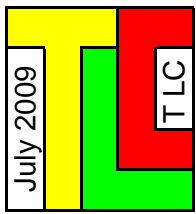
TLC Mail



Dear TLC,

I took NFP classes during the later half of 2006. I enjoy receiving emails from you. I moved out of your diocese and it would be nice if I could stay on your email list and offer up some intentions for your efforts. We have an 8 month old baby now and he is such a blessing! Attached is a recent picture.

K.



THE LOVING CHOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING NEWSLETTER

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Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 19-25, 2009

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/nfpweek/index.shtml>

Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is a national educational campaign. The Natural Family Planning Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops develops a poster each year with basic supportive materials.

The theme this year is:
Marriage and Natural Family Planning: A Divine Design!

Copies of these materials are available through the web address at the top of this page.

There are aids for the priest or deacon in planning his homily during NFP Awareness week. The homily is not the place where details of NFP methodology are provided, rather, the core of the Church's teachings which support NFP in marriage should be highlighted. Pastors should try to have NFP teachers at some Masses where they can distribute NFP brochures or booklets and answer question.

There are Petitions in English and Spanish.

In addition there are prayers and novenas available.

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother. For further information, contact nfp@usccb.org.

The posters are 17" X 22" with English on one side and Spanish on the reverse. To order call 1-866-582-0943; or e-mail customerservice@ifcweb.com. Ask for publication #0922 for the folded posters and item #0922FL for the flat posters. Postcards can be purchased as well, ask for item #0924. Postcards cost 20 cents each.

Cost: \$2.75 each, plus shipping and handling.

The Church teaches that the sacrament of marriage symbolizes Christ's relationship with His Church. What is this relationship but one of generous, self-sacrificing passion-filled and fruitful love! When couples live their vocation according to Church teachings, especially with regard to the transmission of life, many benefits can be reaped. Indeed, married couples who use Natural Family Planning (NFP) report that the benefits include: better communication between spouses; deeper understanding of each other's bodies and consequent growth in respect and awe of God's gift of fertility; growth in patience and emotional maturity; growth in understanding of the supreme gift of children; and growth in holiness as they seek to place God as the head of the household.

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