

July 22, 2018

50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*

Dear Parishioners,

This Wednesday, July 25th, marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most important papal teachings of our time. Pope Blessed Paul VI issued it under the form of document called an “encyclical letter,” and it was entitled *Humanae Vitae*. It concerned the vital teaching of the Faith on the transmission of human life.

The heart of the Pope’s encyclical contains this passage: “*Each and every marital act must remain open to the transmission of life*” (no. 11). With this statement was reiterated the constant teaching of the Faith about the nature of human sexuality. It was an affirmation of the goodness of this gift of God to man and woman, and stands as a firewall defense against sexual perversity.

But the Holy Father also chose to package this succinct statement in a broad ranging discussion wherein he articulated something called the “inseparability principle.” This means that, although the natural end of human sexuality is procreation (and by extension, education) of offspring, nonetheless there is another purpose or “end” which must also be respected. This is what he called the “unitive” dimension. In other words, as is manifest to all, human sexuality is not a mere biological phenomenon, as in the animal world. It also involves, or ought to involve, interpersonal love between the husband and wife.

The dimension of love serves the dimension of new life, and thereby are the most favorable conditions for the next generation secured. But once these two ends (one serving the other) are separated, perversion and disorder are introduced. And thereby is the dignity of the human person subverted.

In this bulletin I include the full text of this very important teaching, in the hope that you will take the time to read it attentively. In doing so, you will assuredly come to appreciate anew how our holy Faith stands in defense of human life, human love and true human dignity.

Peace to you,
Father de Rosa
Pastor