

THE HYDRA

Dear Parishioners,

July 25th marks the anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI's prescient 1968 encyclical letter *Humanae vitae* (Latin for "Of human life").

In it he reiterated the Church's constant teaching that contraception is intrinsically evil and thus never morally acceptable. The core doctrinal statement of *Humanae vitae* states authoritatively that: "Each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life" (no. 11).

There are various ways to get to this conclusion, but Paul VI is to be credited especially for articulating something called the "inseparability principle." This means that human sexuality necessarily involves two essential realities: "love and life." The two cannot be separated *willfully* without introducing moral disorder.

We're not animals of course, so our sexuality is not *just* about having babies. Our enemies try to make such a straw argument against Catholic moral reasoning. But even a cursory knowledge of how we're made shows that God is telling us clearly that He does not intend new life *every* time. And since we're human beings - made to reflect God's own nature - love is also essential. Again, it's about love AND life. In other words, to be truly good, to be authentically human, sexual relations must integrate the two. Thus contracepted acts, since they deliberately close the door to new life, are essentially *dishonest*. They willfully repudiate the potential fatherhood or motherhood of the other person while utilizing the body for pleasure. Thus contraception *falsifies the very language of love*.

The marital embrace is measured by its "natural end", which is the creation of a new person with an immortal soul and a destiny beyond this world. Thus we can even say that there is a "supernatural end" to human sexuality as well. Because the stakes are so high in this endeavor, every step possible must be taken to advantage that new person and help him reach his ultimate destiny: Heaven. Such is the grandeur of the love of husband and wife.

All things being equal, the marriage of a man and woman is the natural and best milieu in which to conceive a child. Their love serves and protects life. And THAT is what the interest of the State is in marriage, viz., to set the favorable conditions for the welcoming of the next generation into society. It's not just to coddle the neurotic to make them feel equal and accepted.

Blessed Pope Paul VI was prophetic in his 1968 admonition: disorder would follow upon disorder were society to embrace the "contraceptive principle" (viz., that there is nothing wrong with divorcing sexual behavior from the possibility of procreation). Pope Francis in his own way has said this by condemning the modern disregard for the "human ecology" manifest in our bodily nature as male and female.

Given Pope Paul's warning, isn't it curious that now we have organized homosexuals arguing: *What is wrong with our behavior? Why does sexual activity have to be only between a man and a woman?* They understand well what many people using contraception won't admit, i.e., that they BOTH argue from the same destructive principle - that they're intellectual bed buddies.

Once this philosophical firewall is torn down a sexual Pandora's box is opened. Consider the acronym that most prefer not to investigate: LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender). In all these cases the body is used for pleasure with total disregard to the procreative meaning of human sexuality. But these, my friends, are properly termed "perversions." And they are heads of the same hydra that spawned contraception.

While many people using contraception might object to this reasoning, I would challenge them to provide a rational counter-argument. A *non-rational* reaction would proceed from one's gut or from the affective level. In other words, a given individual using contraception might find the idea of these behaviors personally repulsive, and probably most do ("It's not for me"). This person might retain his or her natural resistance to committing certain acts that others "prefer." But the philosophical acceptance of the contraceptive principle is letting the camel's nose under the edge of the tent. Think about it.

As the saying goes, "If you do not live the way you think you will end up thinking the way you live." That is one very big reason why so many people who are not personally engaged in these lifestyles are nonetheless sympathetic to it and defend it, and vote for it, and cheerlead it.

So many people fear being labeled "intolerant" or "close-minded" by opposing gay relationships. Is it because they have intuited that it is somehow hypocritical to tell the homosexuals that it's wrong to divorce sex from procreation, while they themselves do it all the time by contracepting? The next step is to cave to the demands of the gay agenda, out of a misguided sense of fairness and American equality; and perhaps guilt.

Thus the heterosexual-but-contracepting generation is found to be philosophically impotent: They cannot halt the minority homosexual onslaught that is steadily advancing and poisoning our youth's vision of marriage. Their irresponsibility has held society's door open to a virulent moral pestilence.

To stop this destruction it is going to take a new generation of men and women who have recovered their senses and can think clearly again about human sexuality. As Pope Saint John Paul II once said, these will be the true heroes of the modern age: the mothers and fathers of authentically Christian families...

-Father de Rosa