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My dear parishioners:

It was fifty years ago this month (July 25, 1968) that Blessed Pope Paul VI (who will be canonized a saint on October 14, 2018) issued his encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae* (Human life) on the regulation of births. I know of no other official papal teaching that was met with as much attention, positive and negative, in modern time than *Humanae Vitae* (HV). Issued during the cultural "sexual revolution" in the United States and Europe, HV was intended to be a clear and courageous explanation of the gift of human sexuality and the responsibility the human family has in reverencing the powerful gift of being able to co-create with God the gift of human life. It was during Vatican II that the world's bishops asked the Holy Father to prepare a document specifically on the issue of the transmission of human life that took into consideration both the advancements in the many forms of artificial contraception and the changing social mores that viewed sexual intimacy less as a sacred gift and more as a form of social expression. The prophetic teaching of HV is as important today (if not more important), given the rise of moral evils like abortion and pornography, than when it was issued fifty years ago.

HV reiterated the noble and long-held theological teachings of the Catholic Church regarding marriage and family. Marriage is viewed as the first gift to the human person (the couple in the Garden of Eden), who was created in the image and likeness of God. From this perspective, marriage is understood to be a sacrament of the Church, whereby God blesses the "I do" of the couple with his divine "I do", uniting the couple in an indissoluble bond of marital love. The faithful love of the couple is the first significance of marriage, with all other aspects of marriage, including the begetting of children, flowing from the faithful love of the couple. Marital love is thus fully human, uniting the couple in the totality of their humanity: body, emotion, and spirit. Marital love must stem from the free will of the couple and it must be faithful, exclusive, permanent. It is from this holy and healthy committed relationship of the couple in marriage that they are thus called to "concretize" their marital love through the birth and rearing of children.

The Church has consistently taught that true and holy marriage stands on the two legs of the "unitive" and "procreative" significances. They are like two sides of a single coin. These two come to us from Sacred Scripture where in the Book of Genesis God says two things to the couple he has formed and bonded: "The two become one flesh" 2:24, and "Be fruitful and multiply" 1:28. Hence, at the Second Vatican Council marriage was defined as: "A union of life and love ordered toward the procreation and education of offspring." (Gaudium et spes 52)

Flowing from this understanding of the sacrament of marriage, every act of sexual intimacy in marriage must nurture, strengthen and support the two significances of marriage. Hence, all sexual intimacy must be an expression of the faithful love of the couple, with no artificial barriers to the transmission of human life. To do otherwise would be to dominate the intention of God and his divine plan for his human family.

HV most certainly calls for "responsible parenthood" whereby the married couple recognizes the duties they have to God, to themselves, to their family and to society. **(continued)**

July 14 - July 22, 2018
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 14 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Is 6:1-8/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Mt 10:24-33
Mass intention for Sue Overstreet

Sunday, July 15 9:00am—Mass
 Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/
 Mk 6:7-13
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, July 16 4:30pm—Mass
 Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34--11:1

Tuesday, July 17 No Mass
 Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday, July 18 4:30pm—Mass
 Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday, July 19 8:30am—Mass
 Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 [20b]/
 Mt 11:28-30

Friday, July 20 9:30am—Communion Service
 Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday, July 21 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21
Mass intention for Sue Overstreet

Sunday, July 22 9:00am—Mass
 Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

Hence, the couple should only have the number of children they can love, educate and support. Paul VI encourages couples to use natural (which are morally lawful) means of regulating the births of their children. By use of the fertility cycle of the woman, the couple is in harmony with the intention of God regarding responsible parenthood. Today we know this means as Natural Family Planning (NFP), and it has an effectiveness rate higher than almost all artificial forms of contraception. And because NFP does not thwart the hormonal balance of the woman, impose any foreign object into the body, or require any surgical intervention, it is perfectly safe to use and reverences well the dignity of human body.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of *Humanae Vitae* we would do well to thank God for the gift of human sexuality and the ability to use this precious gift in a fully responsible and holy way. With our children and teens receiving terrible examples of sexuality in the media today, we must ensure that the voice of the Church is made known to them by us. Let us be courageous in letting them know the dignity of the human body, the honorable nature of marriage, and the profound gift that God has given us to co-create with him the gift of human life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. July 15 <i>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. July 16 4:30pm—Mass	Tues. July 17 6:30pm—ACTS <i>Team meeting</i>	Wed. July 18 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	Thurs. July 19 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy <i>Chaplet</i>	Fri. July 20 9:30am— Communion Service	Sat. July 21 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. July 22 <i>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. July 23 4:30pm—Mass	Tues. July 24 6:30pm—ACTS <i>Team meeting</i>	Wed. July 25 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	Thurs. July 26 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy <i>Chaplet</i>	Fri. July 27 9:30am— Communion Service	Sat. July 28 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

Coming Soon
Annual OLOP Garage Sale

Get your unused things ready.
 Clean out your closets and cabinets.
 Go through your storage buildings.

Items that sell:
furniture, clothes, dishes, what-nots, household items, etc.

Items that are NOT needed:
coats, commodes, computers, old TV's.

Drop-off for items will be July 30-Aug. 2

Adult Faith Formation Classes
Sundays after Mass

NEW VIDEO SERIES: *The Bible and the Sacraments*
Journey through Scripture

Led by Madeline Arnett

In Te Christe / Christ In You

2018 Catholic Men's Conference hosted by:
 St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community
 4300 Meeks Dr. - Orange, Texas
 (409) 883-9153

"Finding Our Catholic Identity"
 Presented by:
Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers
 "The Dynamic Deacon"

Friday, July 20th, 6pm-9:30pm
 Saturday, July 21st, 8am-2:30pm

Register at: [Eventbrite "Finding Our Catholic Identity"](#)
 "Like" us on: Facebook for more details

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Nelda Leathem, Maureen Peltier, Rosemary Urban, Connie McDowell, Billie Matthews, Forrest McDowell III, Rick Schriver, Fr. Carl Shray, Reggie Williams; Bobbie Broussard, Trish Cossette, Henson Crenshaw, Edgar Whatley, Mariah Converse

Repose of the soul: Joyce Davis

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

Weekly Stewardship

July 7 & 8 Weekly Offering	\$ 3,723.00
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ 571.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Events

July 20-21: Catholic Men's Conference, Orange, TX
 July 30-Aug 2: Donation drop off for Parish Garage Sale
 August 3-4: Annual Parish Garage Sale
 August 4: Local Youth World Day, Beaumont, TX
 August 11: Seminar, "Call to Holiness", St. Anne's, Beaumont, TX
 August 19: Family Day/Pot Luck
 August 22: CCE classes begin
 August 24: Beaumont Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Orange, TX
 August 25: ACTS Day of Recollection