

Reexamining *Humanae Vitae* and Its Significance for Catholic Health Care

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ADVANCING *HUMANAЕ VITAE* CONFERENCE

October 12, 2018

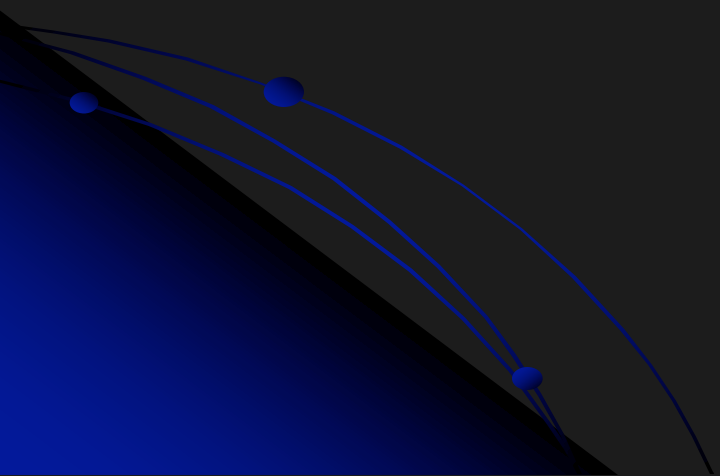
Disclosure Information

- *"I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose."*

Introduction & Goals

- Provide a Foundation for Conference Presentations and Discussions
- Contextualize *Humanae Vitae*
 - Reexamine as a Document of Teaching, Pastoral Response
 - Set in Historical Context
 - Discuss Significance for Catholic Health Care Providers

The Encyclical in Context



HV: A Brief Overview

#27. Likewise we hold in the highest esteem those doctors and members of the nursing profession who, in the exercise of their calling, endeavor to fulfill the demands of their Christian vocation before any merely human interest. Let them therefore continue constant in their resolution always to support those lines of action which accord with faith and with right reason. And let them strive to win agreement and support for these policies among their professional colleagues. Moreover, they should regard it as an essential part of their skill to make themselves fully proficient in this difficult field of medical knowledge. . . . Married couples have a right to expect this much from them.

Specific Focus, Teaching

- Specific Focus on Contraception in *Marriage*
- Key Teaching Statements
 - “The Church, nevertheless, in urging men to the observance of the precepts of the natural law, which it interprets by its constant doctrine, teaches that each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life.” (HV #11)
 - “[E]xcluded is any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is *specifically intended to prevent procreation*—whether as an end or as a means.” (#14)

Distinguishing Distinct Actions

- Using technology/medical interventions to treat conditions, diseases . . .
 - On the other hand, the Church does not consider at all illicit the use of those therapeutic means necessary to cure bodily diseases—even if a foreseeable impediment to procreation should result there from—provided such impediment is not directly intended for any motive whatsoever. (#15)

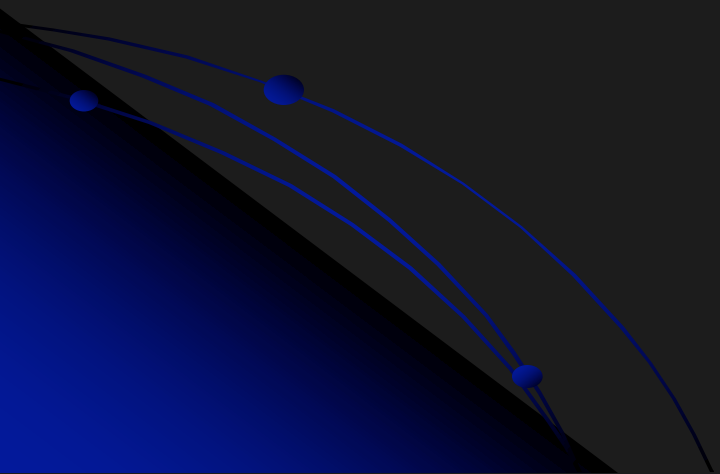
Approach, Terminology, Principles

- Constructive Approach No Condemnation [W. Post; Casti Connubi]
- New Terminology
 - “Unitive” and “Procreative” Meanings of Marital Love
- Fundamental Goods and Natural Law
 - Marriage; Marital Love; Responsible Parenthood
 - Elements of Natural Law in Catholic Tradition
 - We can and should use reason to discern and free will to choose the moral order (in the universe, human nature, human relationships)
 - Natural Law framework ≠ “undeniable,” but “*intelligible*”;

Authoritative Teaching

- Encyclical = “Letter”; historically, to teach bishops
- Papal Teaching Instruments (Carlen, *Papal Pronouncements: A Guide 1748-1978* (1990):
 1. Decretal Letter – Proclaim canonization, beatifications
 2. Apostolic Constitution – Definitions of dogma and change key Church structures
 3. **Encyclical** – Address doctrine, discipline, etc.
 4. Apostolic Letter – Administrative orders
 5. *Moto proprio* – “On his own initiative” – decrees of law, policy
 6. Apostolic Exhortation – Instruction on formal occasion
 7. Allocutions – Speeches

Historical Context



1968!

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

EDITORIAL AND MANAGEMENT OFFICES
VATICAN CITY

WEEKLY EDITION  IN ENGLISH

FIRST YEAR

Price: 60 lire

UNICUIQUE SCUM

NON PRAEVALEBUNT

N. 19 — August 8, 1968

Annual Subscription: Italy Lit. 3,000 — Abroad - Air Mail: European Countries \$ 7 U.S. - Outside of Europe \$ 15 U.S.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER «HUMANAE VITAE»



ENCYCLICAL LETTER
OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE PAUL VI

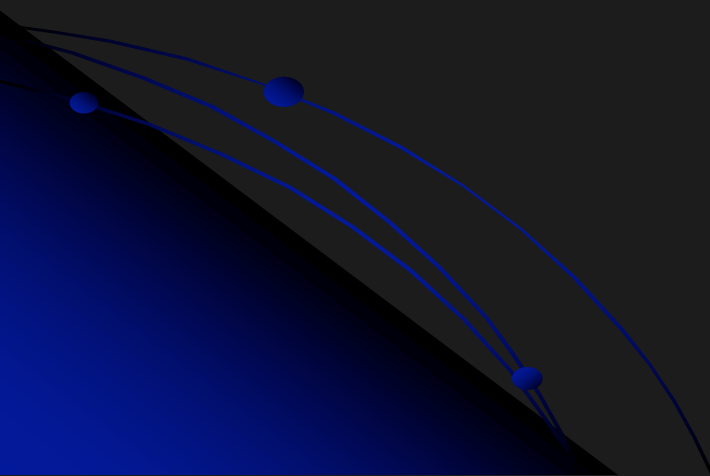
ON THE REGULATION
OF BIRTH

To the Venerable Patriarchs
Archbishops and Bishops

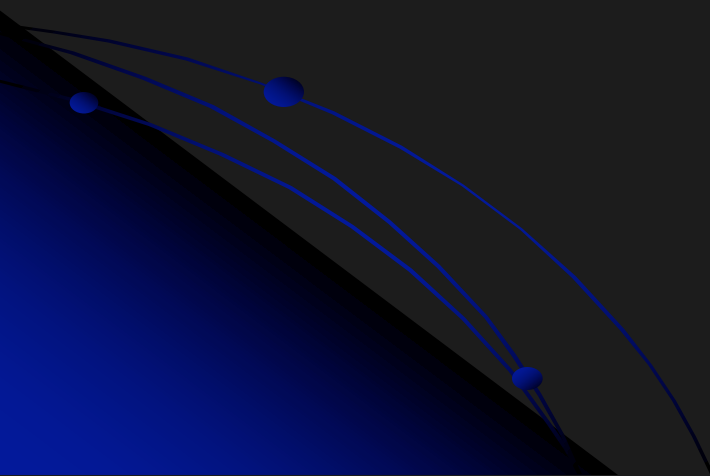


Brehany, The National Catholic Bioethics Center, 2018

Change in the Church



Social and Political Upheaval



History Before *Humanae Vitae*

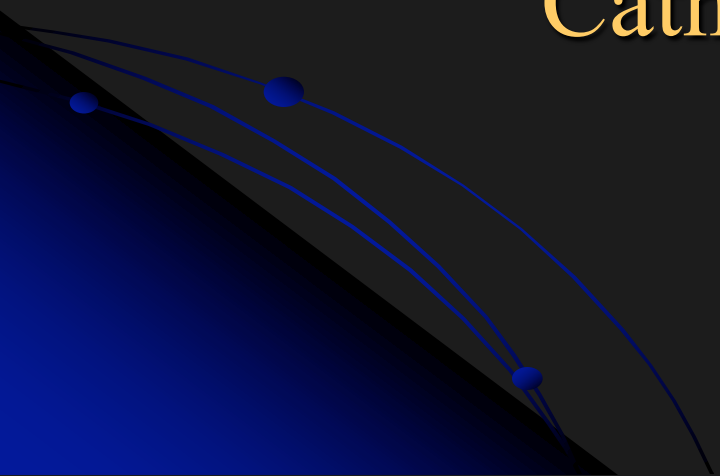
- Human History: Perennial Efforts to Manage Fertility
- “Birth Control” in Catholic Moral Tradition
 - John Noonan, *Contraception* (1965), Preface:

“Since the first clear mention of contraception by a Christian theologian [circa 200 AD] . . . the articulated judgment has been the same . . . the teachers of the Church have taught without hesitation or variation that certain acts preventing procreation are gravely sinful. No Catholic theologian has ever taught, ‘Contraception is a good act.’ The teaching on contraception is clear and apparently fixed forever.”

History After *Humanae Vitae*

- Overwhelming embrace of contraceptive technologies and mentalities; some benefits . . .
- Pope Paul VI's concerns (HV #17) seem prophetic:
 - Increase in marital infidelity;
 - General lowering of moral standards;
 - Increased objectification of women by men;
 - Government interference in marriage, procreation
 - Mary Eberstadt, "The Vindication of *Humanae Vitae*," *First Things*, 2008;
 - "The Prophetic Power of *Humanae Vitae*," *First Things*, 2018

Humanae Vitae and
Catholic Health Care



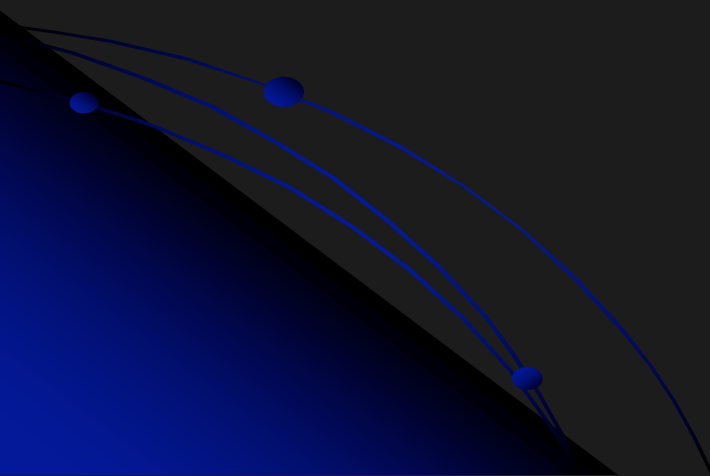
History of Catholic Health Care

- Foundation of the Hospital in Late Roman Empire
- Catholic Health Care in the United States
 - Timeline and numbers
 - Amazing stories
- Power of Living Faith to Build A Ministry; Change History

Nature of Catholic Health Care

- Distilled in *The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (6th ed., 2018) (“ERDs”)
- Fidelity Essential for Recognition as “Catholic”
 - Individuals: *Humanae Vitae* #27; *Gaudium et Spes* #43
- ERDs on Assisting or Preventing Procreation
 - Assisted Reproduction, ##38-43
 - Contraception, Sterilization, Cooperation, ##52-53; 70

Catholic Health Association, “Living Our Promises, Acting on Faith,” 1999; 2001



CHA, *Living Our Promises, Acting on Faith* (1999, 2001)

CHA, *Living Our Promises*

Ethical & Religious Directives

CRITICAL ISSUES

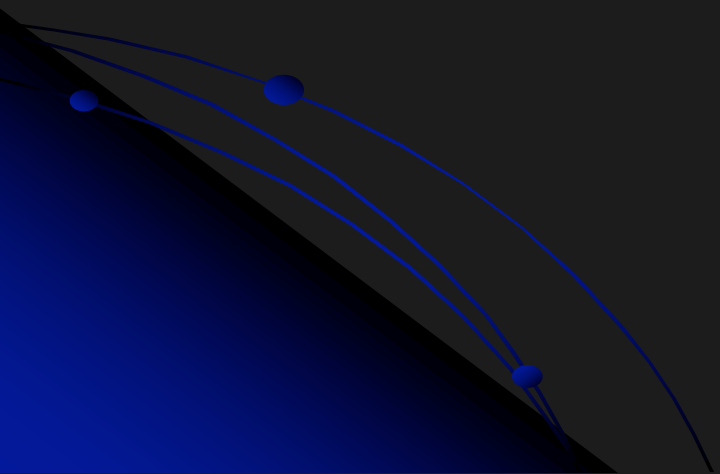
PARTS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Organizational Culture | → | 1. Social Responsibility |
| 2. Holistic Care | → | 2. Pastoral/Spiritual Care |
| 3. Care for Poor and Vulnerable | → | 3. Professional-Patient Relationship |
| 4. Care of the Dying | → | 4. Issues in Care at the Beginning of Life |
| 5. Relationship to the Church | → | 5. Issues in Care for Dying |
| | → | 6. Partnerships/Cooperation |

Vitality and Catholic Health Care

- Challenge of Fidelity and of Being Defined in Terms of “What We Don’t Do”
- How Can Catholic Health Care be Salt, Leaven, Light?
- How Can Programs of Contemporary Fertility Care Services Strengthen Mission, Vitality?

Conclusion



Resource Articles

- John Noonan, *Contraception: A History of Its Treatment by the Catholic Theologians and Canonists* (Harvard U. Press, 1965); Janet Smith: *Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic U. of America Press, 1991); J. Francis Cardinal Stafford, *The Year of the Peirasmòs* (2008); J. Reed, *The Birth Control Movement and American Society: From Private Vice to Public Virtue* (Princeton U. Press, 1984); C. Kahlenborn, M.D., et al., “Oral Contraceptive Use as a Risk Factor for Premenopausal Breast Cancer: A Meta-analysis,” *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2006;81(10):1290-1302 Walter L. Larimore, MD; J.B. Stanford, “Postfertilization Effects of Oral Contraceptives and Their Relationship to Informed Consent,” *Arch. Fam. Med.* (Feb. 2000); C. Kidd, et al., “Collapse of a fish population following exposure to a synthetic estrogen,” *Proc. Nat’l Acad. Sci.* 104(21) (2007):8897-8901; M. Hasson and M. Hill, *What Catholic Women Think About Faith, Conscience, and Contraception*, 2012; C. Haberman, “The Unrealized Horrors of Population Explosion,” *New York Times* (May 31, 2015); E. Feser, “The Role of Nature in Sexual Ethics,” *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* (Spring 2013): 69-76; L. Welling, “Psychobehavioral Effects of Hormonal Contraceptive Use,” 11(3) *Evolutionary Psychology* (2013): 718-42.

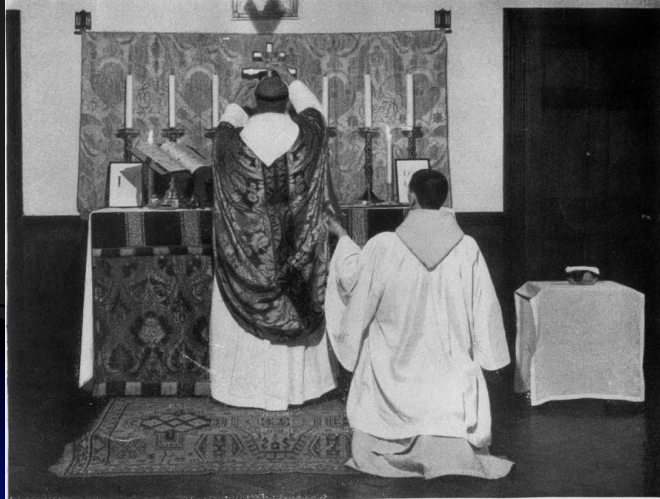
Graphics from Presentation

Slide 8

- “It is impossible to reconcile the doctrine of the divine institution of marriage with any modernistic plan for the mechanical regulation of or suppression of human life . . . Carried to its logical conclusion, the committee’s report . . . would sound the death knell of marriage as a holy institution by establishing degrading practices which would encourage indiscriminate immorality. The suggestion that the use of legalized contraceptives would be ‘careful and restrained’ is preposterous” (1931). *Washington Post*, Mar. 22, 1931.

- [T]he Catholic Church . . . raises her voice in token of her divine ambassadorship and through Our mouth proclaims anew: any use whatsoever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin. Pope Pius XI, *Casti connubi* #56

Slide 12



DR. KING FATALLY SHOT BY ASSASSIN IN MEMPHIS

**U.S. Shocked, Saddened
by Slaying, Johnson Says**

**ANGUISH VOICED
BY U.S. LEADERS**

Message, Is Given Nation
After Assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson spoke Thursday night of an "America shocked and saddened" by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King as he condemned violence, lawlessness and disharmony.

In a brief message to the nation's civil rights and political leaders, Johnson said that he had spoken and given Thursday night proposing a trip to Hawaii for the signing of the War, Vietnam strategy conference.

Johnson said he had been shocked, grief-stricken and saddened by the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, who lived in nonviolence.

The President appeared in the doorway of the White House of the day, then faced and spoke on television and radio and in works.

"I ask every American citizen," he said, "to reject the blood violence that has struck down Dr. King, who lived in nonviolence."



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING
Rites, Bullet Felt Rights Crusader

**Dies Hour After Injury;
Troops Recalled**

By DOUG STONE
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Nobel Laureate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., father of nonviolence in the American civil rights movement, was killed by an assassin's bullet Thursday night.

King, 39, was hit in the neck by a bullet as he stood on the balcony of a motel here. He died less than an hour later in St. Joseph Hospital.

Gov. Buford Ellington immediately ordered 4,000 National Guard troops back into the city. A curfew, which was clamped on Memphis after a King-led march turned into a riot a week ago, was reimposed.

Police said incidents of violence, including several fire bombings, were reported following King's death.

"We have been shocked," President Johnson said the night on radio and television. "I ask every citizen to reject the blood violence that has struck down Dr. King, who lived in nonviolence."

The President said he was postponing his trip to Hawaii, and a Vietnam strategy conference, until Friday. He has been scheduled to leave about midnight Thursday.

President Hubert H. Humphrey said the slaying "has given us a chance to our country as a whole of nonviolence."

King was shot as he was speaking to a group of about 200 people at the Lorraine Motel here, where he had come to lead protests against the city's 1,300 striking garbage workers, most of them Negroes, when he was shot.

The 104 Nobel Peace Prize winner was standing on the balcony of his motel here, where he had come to lead protests against the city's 1,300 striking garbage workers, most of them Negroes, when he was shot.

FAIR ARRESTED
Two unidentified men who were arrested were released several hours later.

As word of King's death spread through the crowded city, thousands of people gathered in the streets.

NON-VIOLENCE ADVOCATE
Dead Day Later

By JAY BOWLER
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—"I call this matter what happens next," he said in a statement.

The murder was Martin Luther King Jr. His audience was shocked and grieved by the slaying.

**King: Been to Mountaintop
No Matter What Happens**

**NEGROES SMASH
AUTO WINDOWS**

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — King Jr. His audience was shocked and grieved by the slaying.

The President urged prayers for peace and understanding in the kind and said:

"We can achieve nothing in lawlessness and disharmony among the American people. We will search their hearts for a change of attitude."

At that point he said he was postponing his trip to Hawaii and postponing until Friday his planned visit to Hawaii and conference there on problems of war and peace in Vietnam.

DENIED PLANNED
He was to have attended a

Slide 13A

Photos of Kennedy Shooting WEDNESDAY
RACING Los Angeles Times **FINAL**
RESULTS-ENTRIES
MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4, 1968
MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4, 1968
MEMPHIS, TENN., APRIL 4, 1968

KENNEDY SHOT



**Critically Wounded in
Head at Victory Fete**

By PAUL J. LARSEN
Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the head as he walked to a balcony of the Ambassador Hotel in New York City after he had won a second consecutive presidential election, according to newspaper reports.

The New York Herald Tribune said Kennedy was shot in the head as he walked to a balcony of the Ambassador Hotel in New York City after he had won a second consecutive presidential election, according to newspaper reports.

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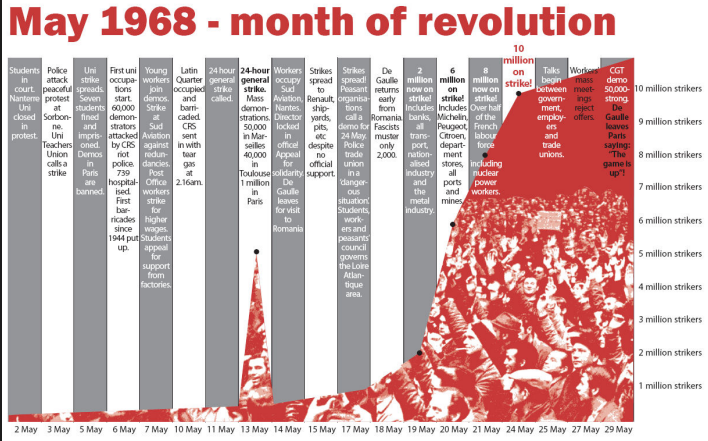
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L.A. COUNTY RETURNS **FIRING AT POINT-BLANK RANGE**



Slide 13B



Democrat and Chronicle

Without or with offence to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes. —Byron

ROCHESTER, N. Y., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 1968

Metro Edition

10 CENTS

U.S. Theologians Assail Pope's Stand

—New York Times
INGTON — Eighty-Roman Catholic theologians declared emphatically that the encyclical of Paul VI reaffirming the Catholic Church's position birth control is not upon Catholics.

theologians — priests and teaching in U.S. col- legial universities — said in- couples could respon- sible for themselves ac-

ording to their conscience" whether or not to use contracep- tives.
 "The encyclical is not an in- fallible teaching," said the statement, which was released at a press conference.
 "History shows that a number of statements of similar or even greater authoritative weight have subsequently been proven inadequate or even erroneous," it said. "Past authoritative statements on religious liberty,

Vatican paper answers critics, Page 2A.

interest-taking, the right to al- lence, and the ends of marriage have all been corrected at a later date."
 The theologians said they felt a responsibility to speak out on the papal pronouncement. The Rev. Charles E. Curran, one of the group's leaders, said more signatures probably would be added.

and Mrs. John F. Curran 413 Rocket St., Rochester.
 "It is common teaching in the church that Catholics may dis- sent from authoritative, non- fallible teachings of the mag- isterium (teaching authority) when sufficient reasons for so doing exist," the statement said.
 "Therefore, as Roman Catho- lic theologians, conscious of our duty and our limitations, we conclude that spouses may res-

possibly decide according their conscience that artificial contraception in some cir- cumstances is permissible and indeed necessary to preserve foster the values and sacred of marriage."
 The 100-member Associa- tion of Washington Priests, 9 earlier said it would not sup- port the church's position ag- ainst birth control, drafted a so- called last night endorsing stand taken by the theolog-

Slide 19



Living Our Promises, Acting On Faith

A National Program of Performance Improvement for the Catholic Health Ministry

