

Apology

It has been brought to my attention that in the last issue of the newsletter (issue 34) on page 2 paragraph 5, I really, really, made a serious mistake and the mistake is found in, I quote "In my own area of work I can see the bad fruits of *Humanae Vitae* etc.." I have been taken severely to task over the wording of this sentence. And on reading it I have to agree with the nineteen people who rang or wrote and brought the error to my attention. The way that I have worded the sentence implies that there are bad fruits to *Humanae Vitae*. This of course is not what was meant, and I hope that if the whole newsletter was read it would be seen that that was not what I meant, but indeed what was meant was (and here is where I fluffed it by leaving out the words) "as a **result of society's rejection,**" of *Humanae Vitae*. It is quite possible to see the huge difference that the omission of those several words makes.

I did not mean to imply that there is even a speck on *Humanae Vitae*, but indeed the more I study this document the more I am convinced that society's ills stem from the rejection of this marvellous prophetic document. I have written a small chapter in my book, on this encyclical called *Humanae Vitae*, and this is where I speak about the prophetic nature of this document.

The recent raging debate about the same sex marriages and the vitriol, which has erupted from certain quarters against the Holy Father and his letter against this further erosion of marriage, should not surprise us. We should have seen it coming. The lack of understanding that humanity has about sexuality, and the human body, and marriage and procreation, really can lead to nothing but what we have. When the Holy Father Pope Paul VI, in 1968 released this document, it was released in part as response to the new mores of the sixties. He released this document in order to combat the new amorality, which had broken into society, and was beginning to create havoc. The Holy Father (Pope Paul VI) sought to stem the tide of liberalised, abused, instinctual, free sex, which emerged from the new form of contraception and the developing contraceptive mentality, which would eventually lead to a devaluing of God, life, love, sexuality, procreation, the body, family, children, and society. This document sought to warn the human person that liberation from constraints of honour, would end up reducing the individual to the most basic animalistic of instincts devoid of the higher order responses of the human mind, body and spirit.



John 15

BROKEN BRANCHES

Humanae Vitae sought to highlight the unitive and procreative nature of the marital act, and keep this act intact and in its proper order. It sought to prevent the act from becoming an act purely for recreation and devoid of its covenant character, that is, “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth” (Gn:1.28)

Section 17 of this document (*Grave Consequences of methods of artificial birth control p.21*) highlights what would happen if failure to understand the sacredness of sexuality as God had ordained. “It is to be feared that the man, growing used to the employment of anti-conceptive practices, may finally lose respect for the woman and, no longer caring for her psychological equilibrium, may come to the point of considering her as mere instrument of selfish enjoyment, and no longer his respected and beloved companion” (*HV 17*).

The Holy Father sought to warn that sexuality itself (and not the sex act) and transmission of life was the domain of God and not to be tampered with. He “warned of grave consequences,” which would, and have come to pass. Since the sixties, we have seen loosening of moral standards. We have seen an amoral cancer develop. Abortions in unprecedented numbers, indeed in holocaust proportions. Abandonment of families. Slow and methodical breakdown and changing of the meaning of family, children, marriage. We have seen an astronomical rise in chemical dependency, drug/alcohol abuse and addiction. The phenomenon of youth suicide in unprecedented proportions. We have seen the enormous rise in same gender attractions, and the blatant tolerance, demand for, and acceptance of this lifestyle. Indeed at times it has even been encouraged and promoted as something to be coveted. We have seen IVF and its legacy of unwanted, abandoned, frozen embryos (babies at their genesis). We have seen foetal experimentation. We have seen interspecies parts usage. We have seen stem cell research using embryos. We have seen cloning. We have seen legalisation of abortion, euthanasia (in some countries), and now the call for legalisation, and dare I say it, the demand for “sanctification” and legitimisation of same sex coupling, and all that goes with it, including adoption of children. This in an attempt to formally demand the recognition of new family structures. Yet, still there is silence about, *Casti Canubii*, *Donum Vitae*, *Humane Vitae*, *Evangelium Vitae* and the marvellous contemporary work of the Holy Father (John Paul II) *Theology of the Body*. Really, I don’t think we want to learn. Not that we cannot learn, but we don’t want to learn. We prefer our own ideas of being our own little” gods.”

My error in the last issue of the newsletter (issue 34) was in leaving out the words “as a result of society’s rejection” not my understanding of it, and I apologise to anyone who was upset by this omission and to the person who thought I was showing signs of heresy. I think that this particular issue must have been important because everything that could have gone wrong did!! Indeed in the first copy, which went to printer, I made such a disastrous typo that even after printing 350 copies they had to be destroyed, and begun again, and still I missed this other error. And again we had to

destroy another 1400 copies because of the above-mentioned error. And begin yet again. The third time I decided not to read any more. I need to say that only about 150 individuals have received the seriously faulty issues, (with both errors) as the newsletter is printed in stages so that I fold and send. Thank you to those who alerted me. Again I apologise to my wonderful, diligent and loyal readers (gentle too! I got slapped on the wrist only 19 times so it wasn't so bad- it could have been 1400 times).

Perhaps before I end on this issue of *Humanae Vitae*, could I challenge all my readers both priestly and lay, to **please, please, please** buy a copy and really read it, keeping section 17 in mind. Read first section 17, and then read it in total. And could I challenge all my readers to act on this document (if you really believe and see what it says) by learning and speaking about it. It is not a difficult document and it is not a large document (35 short pages). It is manageable. It is only when we can see at the root level what went wrong that we can perhaps attack the root of the poisoned tree (and not the buds) and begin to see the death of rottenness. *Humanae Vitae* needs to be taken on board by the lay population and lay leaders (dynamic ones, -fearless ones, unafraid of friend or foe) who will then unpack its contents, live its contents and teach its contents to their brothers and sisters (community)

We should not wait for priests and bishops to speak about this (though their spiritual and other supports necessary should be available by them) because *Humanae Vitae* is an encyclical to be especially lived out by the lay population and witnessed to, by the lay population. ***Congratulations to Human Life International for their initiative of appointing lay apostles to speak on Humane Vitae. This is the way to go! We must go back fifteen steps and start again. We cannot ever, ever stop abortions until we understand the meaning of the human body and human life. It may take two more generations to achieve a reversal but it can be done. Society is at war against itself and its future. Every abortion is a war against God, life and future.***

ABORTION FOR FOETAL ABNORMALITY:

Recently there appeared in a Sunday magazine a story, which surprised me by its candour and by the fact that a secular magazine would even consider printing such a story. However, I am so glad that they had the courage to print such a story even in the face of what is reported today. Thank you to Peter from Sydney and Maree from Melbourne for sending me the story.

The story was being told by the woman of the family and it was about the abortion of her (their) in utero baby when it was discovered that it had Downs Syndrome.

Throughout the retelling of this woman's story I could almost hear her speak. I could hear her say that her husband wept with pain and sorrow, over their child. I could hear the medical profession telling her all the negatives in the life of this child. I could hear her weighing this "imperfect little life" with the other "perfect one" and being found wanting. I could hear the

instant the decision to terminate was made, and the assumption that this was the “right thing, for all of us including the baby.”

Perhaps the deceitfulness of this abortion procedure begins in this woman’s assumption, that in the making of this decision the rest would come easily, and be such a sanitized procedure that all would be over and done with ease. Indeed, this lady thought that the mechanics of such a procedure were such that there would be sedation for her and then *viola* end of over 20 weeks of pregnancy.

However, late term abortion is not quite that simple. The ramifications of an abortion, any abortion is traumatic however, where there has been bonding with the child, where there has been a relationship built with the child, where the child has been felt (**it continues to kick until the end**). Where the child has been so wanted and planned, there can be nothing sanitised about its death. Late term abortions mean at times full labour has to be endured. Not only labour, but also the knowledge that at the end of the labour, there will not be a baby to take home. Perhaps the most telling comment that this woman made was that she could have delivered the infant earlier but held onto him because she didn’t want to let him go. This is the bonding that had occurred between mother and child. **She didn’t want to let him go.**

What interested me as I read the article, was her display of some of the classic symptoms that we know follow an abortion, and have been cited in post abortion syndrome studies and literature. E.g. her hatred of other pregnant women. Her sense of her own loss of self worth, “the experience has made me a pretty nasty person” “I killed my child and now I am tainted forever” etc etc etc. “I am not a nice person” “It feels lonely and isolating” “we shared the responsibility for the terrible dirty act that we had committed.” “I now give obsessively to charity especially those linked to children” (guilt/atonement) the ongoing need to apologise. “I’m convinced I have made terrible mistake” Maybe our son would have overcome the problems.” “I want to be normal again” “I don’t want to be a victim” “I want to stop having such terrible thoughts” “I want to be nice again” “I want to be happy again” These are the comments of someone who no longer is sure that she made the right decision. These are the thoughts of someone who is not at peace. This reminds me of something someone (I don’t remember who) said to me “Anne, before the abortion the devil has a soothing, understanding voice. Following the abortion he has a strident, accusing voice” Indeed this is what I hear and can be heard even in the words of this interview.

I would recommend that if you want to read the interview in its entirety you it might be possible to contact the Sunday Newspaper “The Herald Sun” dated August 3, 2003, it is in the Sunday Magazine section.

MEDICAL PROFESSION

I really have to admit that I reserve most of my anger in relation to the above story and those other similar stories of abortion for foetal

abnormality, for the medical profession. For the so-called genetic counsellors. For those who immediately presume that if something is perceived to be wrong with the infant, the most natural response is to abort. The most natural response is the death of that which is “imperfect.” Margaret Sanger, (Founder of International Planned Parenthood) Adolph Hitler (despotic tyrant) and other eugenicists would be so proud of the levels of “human cleansing,” which we have arrived at. They could never in their wildest dreams imagine how well their plans have been carried out.

Today the profession, without even considering alternatives, naturally assumes that the imperfect must be disposed. That it cannot find place in this sanitised world, for a child that is considered “not quite right.” How strange we will flock to buy “not quite right” labels of clothing and foods and other stuffs but “imperfect” children are disposable.

Would I be stretching the imagination too far if I suggest that this is also part of the fruit of the rejection, by society, of *Humanae Vitae*. You see *Humanae Vitae* is about contraception. It is about playing God and deciding when a child lives, and when a child is allowed to be conceived, and when a child is not allowed to continue with its life. It is about saying NO to God. It is about “conditional children.” That is, children conceived because they fit certain specification. We have reached a time when we are so technologically advanced that we can not only see what we create but reject also that which is considered imperfect.

In recent weeks we have seen a most beautiful sight (on prime time news on television) of an infant in the womb actually smiling and blinking during an ultrasound. We are able to view from the outside, life in the womb. Yet at the same time this same equipment, which brings to us images of miracles, is used to determine which baby lives and which baby dies. This very piece of equipment can also pick up abnormalities, which then invariably becomes the catalyst for a death sentence on the baby. *We have built our own tower of Babel and have climbed to the top.*

Contraceptive Mentality.

Recently the ACT government agreed to make available condoms, to young children as young as 12 years of age or year 6 of school age. These are given through sex education programs and if possible condom vending machines installed in schools. The Education Minister for that state decided in her infinite wisdom that young children: “if a 12 year old is sexually active, I’d rather they have access to condoms” are automatically sexually actively. Mind you this has the support of Council of Parents and Citizens Associations who made recommendations to the Assembly standing committee and whose president Mr Ian Morgan said that making condoms available to students should be part of the broader sex education campaign. He further says that “it is a public health issue and *kids* (my italics) are entitled to have information [about sex]. Information about *safe sex* (my italics) ought to be the responsibility of not only government schools but non government schools as well” Said this illumined individual.

Since when has teaching children about sex and encouraging them to participate in what they have learnt been part of schooling? Since when did it become necessary to teach children about sex? Since when did parents forfeit their right to educate their children in matters of sexual nature? Since when were 12 year olds meant to be prepared for their sexual experiences by being given condoms? Since when did a 12 year old know what sex and sexuality means? Since when? Perhaps the answer to these questions could begin “when we rejected *Humanae Vitae*” This contraceptive mentality which is now considered the norm and a demand could only have developed when we said No to God. These are the fruits of society’s rejection of *Humanae Vitae*. The culture of death mentality, which begins during these formative years and is prophetically fulfilled with each new **no** to God.

Contraceptive Mentality continues...

Recently a report published in the Australian medical Journal found that Australian teen angers are among the worlds most sexually active. It further reported that Australia has the sixth highest teenage pregnancy rate among the developed nations and that an astonishing high number of teenagers engage in unprotected sex. This report also says that Australia has one of the highest abortion rates, and says that abortion, as a procedure is the second most common reason why young women are admitted to hospitals.

This reports author Dr R.Skinner from the University of W.A. further suggests that the reason why so many abortions is insufficient sex education and difficulty in accessing contraception, and argues that school based sex education programs **MAY** help cut teenage pregnancy rates. Dr Skinner also illumines us on the fact that teenagers are the most frequent users of emergency contraception at Family Planning Clinics.

However, not once does Dr Skinner ever suggest or possibly see or even conceive of the fact that the reason for such high abuse of their sexuality by teenagers have been the explicit and almost pornographic sex education programs within the schools and the development of the contraceptive mentality. How many hours have been spent teaching teenagers about how wonderfully made they are? How many hours have been spent in teaching teenagers that sex is too sacred to be so abused? How many hours have been spent teaching teenagers about chastity?

My fear is that Dr Skinner and her colleagues see great merit school based, school linked health centres (-no doubt, to be used without parent consent) which apparently have been implanted in some areas of the US and according to Dr Skinner “hold promise” How did we get to this? *Humanae Vitae* was rejected, contraceptives were accepted, and now we have the fruits of the consequences spoken about in *Humanae Vitae*.

NIC'S COMMENTS.

Greetings and Salutations Good People,

Long time no speak!

I'm sorry I haven't written in a while, I know how devastated you must have all been, with just mum's writing and not mine. But alas, your prayers have been answered – I'm back! 😊

I hope this newsletter finds you all well, as for me, Chiropractic is unbelievably hard, but at the same time extremely rewarding, and a lot of fun crunching bones and breaking backs!!! Yes, I know - I'm devious.

Now, I know you're all excited to have me back, please – calm down, I don't want any pacemaker's breaking on my account 😊 Only joking. I actually have a serious topic amid all this witty banter.

Lately I have been going out quite a bit with my friends, from both University and school, and while we are relatively tame, (or so mum thinks) I often see things and hear of different things that once upon a time would not have been acceptable at all. It seems that people of today live for moment, and while this may sound good, shouldn't we be living for God? The world we live in is changing, and it seems for the worse. People live life shamelessly, and their response? "I was baptised so God will save me," or "I don't bash up people, rob banks, or steal from the poor, God will save me." Have we not heard the outcry from the Heavens? We have had apparitions – the supernatural trying to tell us to repent, to stop living a life of hedonism, of wanton narcissism, but how do we respond? We sit down and watch as Homosexual marriage is legalised, as abortion – MURDER OF CHILDREN, and euthanasia – MURDER OF THE EDERLEY, or SICK of the people who depend on us most, become common practise. We have Our Lady of Guadalupe, Padre Pio, THE POPE, telling us that we must stop living the lives that we lead, but we simply brush these warnings aside thinking, "Hey, I'm a good person, what have I done that is so bad?" This blasé attitude is spreading and it seems the Devil's vicelike grip grows ever more powerful. "Where is God?" you ask. Is God so invisible, or are we so scientific, so caught up in admiring ourselves that we miss God? Canada – the land of SNOW is burning, while America experiences a hurricane so powerful that it can be seen from space, and Europe is both flooded and on fire at the same time! And we have the audacity to question where God is? If we cannot already see God in this world, then we will not until it is too late. Abortion, Euthanasia, Cloning, creating DNA Hybrids, our aim it seems is to become our own gods, but that is the big picture. Closer to home, we have people who are not married sharing the same bed, homosexuality is rampant, we broadcast television with no morals, TV shows such as Big Brother that prove that Network producers have not a brain cell to share between the lot of them, so they show nudity, people talking about private things, anything for ratings. And we sit back and watch, claiming we are not responsible as we are not the ones making the show, and we are not appearing on them,

continually brushing off any responsibility for the shocking state that we are living in.

Things must change people. God will not continue to allow this empirically sinful lifestyle to continue, and importantly, WE should not allow this to continue. You are a part of your society, we are part of society no matter how far removed we think we are. It is up to you, TO US, to put a stop to the abominations that we live in. We must repent and lead good lives, we must ask forgiveness in Christ and change our ways, or we will certainly see that which is the wrath of God.

Wow, that was a harsh one, but these things must be said. Hope I didn't freak out too many of you! Even mum is stunned with the amazing quality of this piece, so I'll leave it there for now.

Take it EZY,
Laterz,

NiC Lastman

I had nothing to do with this and he wrote it ages ago before I even started to write this issue of the newsletter. He wrote it during a lull in his study and saved it and simply copied onto this issue of the newsletter. I am amazed at how relevant it is to this issue. Nic's long suffering mother. (Anne)

Letters page

Dear Mrs Lastman,

Thank you for your newsletters. The University does not cater well for the student's needs so both the female students and myself are grateful for the newsletters from you. I circulated these and the students made photocopies for themselves. A couple of students have borrowed the whole set for their assignments. Both of these ladies are Catholics One is in third year (uni) and one is doing postgraduate studies. One of the students here was deciding to abort her baby as she thought of the work ahead of her but when she read your newsletter she discussed it with me and decided to keep the baby. Now she loves her baby and is grateful she kept the baby. Mrs Lastman I would.....personal matter for several paragraphs of letter then....

*Many thanks for the newsletters. They have been very much appreciated.
May God bless you and all that you do.*

*Sr. S.A. (OLSH)
Papua New Guinea.*

Dear Anne and Nic.,

First of all I need to say that I have missed Nic's witty writing and comments though I am sure that he must be very busy doing chiropractic studies. I hope he can find time to write again soon. We look forward to what he writes and his sense of humour. It is really good to know that there are young men like him growing up.

Also I want to say thanks Anne for all the years that you have sent the newsletter to me even though I haven't been able to really financially support you. I wait from month to month to not receive it but sure enough it always comes. Recently I had the opportunity to tell someone about your newsletter and the work you do. My friend was surprised because she had never heard of such a service and certainly not one under the umbrella of the Church. She didn't think the Catholic Church was interested in these things, so she was pleasantly surprised.

Anyway, I just thought that I would write and say thank you and just as a small donation I enclosed this small booklet of stamps, I know its not much but I hope it helps.

God Bless,

Marion B. (Vic)

Dear Anne,

Keep up the good work. You're doing a mighty job.

Blessings

John T. (NSW)

I have been asked to publicise this:

Worldwide Rosary For Life.

Year of the Rosary 2002-2003 will conclude when the Holy Father visits the Basilica Queen of the Rosary – Pompeii.

Worldwide Rosary for Life will hold a day of prayer in union with the Holy Father on Wednesday 8th October.

You are cordially invited:

When: 10 am to 2.30 pm Wed. 8th October 2003

**Where: Mary McKillop Centre, 109 Old Mornington Rd
Mt. Eliza.....Victoria.**

Speaker: Mrs Denise Den Bakker on The Rosary and the Media.

Mass Celebrant. Fr Des. Jenkins

**Cost: \$10 per person
BYO lunch.**

Bookings before Sept 30.

For information call Margaret on (03) 9776 9339 or Carmel 97873966.

As I come to the end of this issue of the newsletter I realise how close to the end of the year we are. The next issue after this one we are in December and another year has passed.

I really, really, really need to ask for help again. The last two issues before this one were not well supported. This of course I attributed to the botched up nature of the last newsletter and I quite understood. However, it made it difficult to pay all the outstanding accounts. Although when desperation set in, and I thought myself totally abandoned, by all and sundry, the Lord showed His goodness with a gift I received from a lovely order of Nuns from NSW. Their gift was sufficient to pay all outstanding accounts. Thank you dear sisters. Thank you also to those who sent a donation I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Never ending is Telstra, and printing and postage and everything else. Anyway please consider helping if you can. I am entirely dependent on your goodness. I respond for requests for literature whenever it is asked for. I photocopy and send packages to students (usually for assignments for school) I travel wherever I am asked to speak (youth groups, ladies groups, prayer groups, have also done a radio interview with a station in South Australia) and of course the many hours of counselling every week. I continue to do as much as I can. Please do as much as you can-only if you can.

Please continue to pray for Melissa, Darren, Marie, Margaret, Julia, Jodie, Judy, Samantha, Anne, Donna. Susan, Eddie, Sarah, Tina, Genevieve,(new) Vanessa, (new) "boat girls who disappeared" friends of a priest friend of mine, Rachel, Janine, Helen, Janet, Jason, Jill, (new) Michael, Angela (new) Ron.

Keep well and may the Lord Bless and keep you in His care.



Anne Lastman

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

Donation/Newsletter _____

Yes/no, I would/would not like to be on your mailing list.

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