

Pope John Paul II: Conjugal Act Not Love When Contraception Used

By John Thavis
Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II said Aug. 22

that the conjugal act is incomplete and "ceases to be an act of love" when

artificial means of birth control are used.

In removing the possibility for procreation, such methods of birth control violate the "inner order of conjugal communion," the pope told several thousand people gathered in St. Peter's Square. "This is the essential evil of the contraceptive act," he said.

"The conjugal act means not only love, but also the potential for procreation, and therefore cannot be deprived of its full and adequate significance through artificial intervention," the pope said.

The pope said it was not permissible to artificially separate the procreative aspect from the "unitive" aspect in the conjugal act. "Both belong to the intimate truth of the conjugal act," he said.

"Therefore, in such a case the conjugal act, deprived of its inner truth because it is deprived of its procreative capacity, ceases even to be an act of love," he said.

When artificial means of contraception are used, the pope said, a "bodily union"

is possible, but not a real communion of the couple.

In his sixth in a series of talks on the 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae" (Of Human Life), which restated church teachings against artificial methods of birth control, Pope John Paul stressed individual self-control by husband and wife.

"It is only when one achieves self-control that one can give oneself to another," the pope said.

Man has found new methods to dominate the forces of nature, the pope said, but contemporary people tend to apply these "artificial methods" to what ought to be the realm of self-control.

In doing so, he said, individuals make themselves "objects of manipulation." He added that self-control in itself "is, in fact, a natural method."

The pope referred to the body as the means of expression of the whole person, and not merely as "the center of sexual reactions."

The human being, he said, speaks a sacramental lan-

guage of the body" through gestures, reactions, tension and enjoyment, all of which spring from "the body in its masculinity or femininity, in its action or interaction."

The dialogue couples express in this "language of

the body," he said, began on the day of creation.

Pope John Paul has described his series of audience talks as a "re-reading" of "Humanae Vitae," written in 1968 by Pope Paul VI. The talks are expected to last into the fall.



Sisters Mary Rose Schum, left, and Mary Howard Cowan.

Mercy Infirmarians End 56-Year Service

Mercy Sisters Mary Howard Cowan and Mary Rose Schum, co-administrators of Lourdes Hall -- the Motherhouse infirmary -- have resigned their duties, effective Aug. 19.

Their successors are Sisters Kathleen Ann Kolb and Catherine Pfleger, who serve as administrator and coordinator of Lourdes

Hall, respectively.

Sisters Howard and Rose came to the Mercy infirmary in 1951, when it was located in the main motherhouse building. In 1977, the infirmary was moved to the second floor of the newer Mother Catherine McAuley Building.

Sister Rose served in the infirmary for 30 years; Sister Howard, 26.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

The Backyard Report

We finally have the hummingbirds coming with regularity. The secret: a feeder which can be found in most area stores and which resembles an hourglass with a base containing tiny holes. Hanging it directly over the barrel of pink impatiens and petunias helped, too.

We got the idea from Grandma B. who has no less than five of the tiny creatures circling at one time. One hummingbird came close to attacking my Aunt Louise kamikaze style. According to our bird book, hummingbirds are "fearless and pugnacious." We are believers. The entire family stops to watch the tiny birds hover, fly backwards and soar off so quickly we cannot follow their routes.

The least successful crop this year was a toss-up between the sunflowers and the cucumbers. Thus far we've had two cukes. The sunflowers did better originally but the rabbits kept them trimmed to the stem and at this writing the two remaining plants are only a foot high.

Morning glories along the fence were also disappointing but the couple extra seeds I threw in the moist, barren ground near the porch made up for it with gorgeous, large blue flowers. By far the most successful planting were the basil seeds. We had bought three basil plants at some

ridiculous price but I also scattered two rows of seeds and we've had enough basil this summer to keep us more than supplied. If anybody without a green thumb wants a crop to be proud of, basil is it. Next year I'm starting it early on the sun porch.

What do you do with the basil? Well, a few leaves thrown into your homemade spaghetti sauce elevates it from wonderful to sublime. We like it fresh on our Insalata Caprese (salad, Capri style) which consists of homegrown sliced tomatoes topped with sliced mozzarella cheese, drizzled with olive oil and topped with green basil. It makes a colorful centerpiece, too.

But most of our basil this year is going for pesto sauce which the head of the house has been making several times a week.

We've had grilled chicken basted with pesto marinade, scallops topped with a little pesto and broiled, spaghetti and pesto (the dog is crazy about it), pizza pesto, and sliced tomatoes topped with pesto and grilled.

The recipe for pesto is simple. In blender, place 2 cups of fresh basil leaves, 1/2 cup of olive oil, 1/4 cup grated cheese, one small clove of garlic, and 1/4 cup pine nuts. Blend until just smooth, then refrigerate or freeze until used. (The chief cook says he sometimes forgets the cheese and the pine nuts and it's still great.) This recipe will be enough for one pound of spaghetti or a medium pizza.

Father Hehir

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-depth knowledge of 'The Challenge of Peace'."

The Friday program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday's activities will run 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Overnight hospitality will be provided diocesan traveling to Rochester for the program.

Saturday's agenda includes 28 workshops developed to include topics that would be of interest to a wide variety of people, Ms. Mancini said. "We have sessions dealing with liturgy, religious education, and social ministry as well as with spirituality, means of settling conflicts, and ways to be publicly involved in peacemaking."

At the same time as the conference, the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry will hold its annual Youth Convocation.

Patrick Fox, director of youth ministry, said, "We have combined our annual convocation of youth leaders with the conference in order to offer the young people we

work with the opportunity to be a part of this important diocesan gathering."

"There will be several special events for youths during the conference that will deal with specific issues that youths must face in dealing with the questions raised in the pastoral," he said.

Ms. Mancini added that there will also be another program for youths who are not involved in the convocation. She said, "We want to make it possible for families to participate in the conference, and we have done that by including a program for young people."

The conference will close with a musical program, "Alice in Wonderland."

The event is a project of the diocesan Division of Education and the diocesan steering committee on "The Challenge of Peace."

Further information and registration forms are available from either Ms. Mancini or Lund at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624; (716) 328-3210.



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