



March 2012

THE INEVITABLE HAS HAPPENED!

My Dear Friends,

In a shocking decision, our federal government is mandating that *Catholic institutions and employers violate their consciences* by providing insurance to cover every woman's "free" access to contraceptives, abortifacients and sterilization (see enclosed pamphlet).

But should we be surprised? Is this not the inevitable outcome of a contraceptive culture? A culture Bl. John Paul II called a "culture of death"?

Catholics United for Life needs your financial assistance *now more than ever*. In addition to our many regular projects, such as printing pro-life literature, planning and hosting an annual youth conference, distributing Catholic reading material to prison inmates, and assisting our pro-life affiliate groups across the US, CUL is now working with the Center for Law and Justice International, our legal arm, to fight this outrageous affront to our religious freedom — and yours. Please read on and then consider making a generous and sacrificial donation to help us defend your rights and the rights of the unborn.

Forty-four years ago — a mere moment in history — Pope Paul VI emphasized in *Humanae Vitae* that abuse of power by governments was *exactly what we should anticipate* in the event of the "acceptance of methods of contraception and the reasons given for the use of contraception."

The Pope was addressing "responsible" people in *Humanae Vitae* — not only Catholics but people who are able to "quickly see" the truth about "what consequences will follow from methods of contraception and the reasons given for the use of contraception."

Perhaps it is now time for each one of us to read or re-read *Humanae Vitae* and meditate on it in light of the decline of morals and religious liberty that we experience in our daily lives today!

What Is the Significance of *Humanae Vitae* Today?

The Holy Father was writing to the leaders of the Catholic Church, asking them to teach the **natural moral law** on the meaning of human sexuality and marriage. He was affirming and clarifying for our age the perennial value of natural law.

Given by the Creator, the **natural moral law** makes clear God's will and purpose for marriage, and it forms the moral foundation of every human society. The stability and well-being of mankind depend on the moral life of married couples who nurture and form families as the most basic unit of all societies.

The Contraception Deception

The founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, campaigned throughout the world, promoting contraception as a great and necessary benefit to the world, because by its use:

- Women would be liberated and happier.
- They would enjoy better health.

- Marriages would be stronger and more unified.
- “Unwanted” children would not be born.
- Families would prosper.
- Children would benefit by having better health and education.
- The entire world would benefit by avoiding the consequences of overpopulation.

For Sanger and Planned Parenthood, the introduction of the birth control pill in the 60s was a triumph. Contraception was henceforth promoted as effective, easy and affordable!

What Is the Historical Reality?

In 1968, in *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI presented a different set of predictions. He warned of *dire consequences* that would follow the acceptance of contraception.

- Marital infidelity would increase.
- There would be a gradual weakening in the discipline of morals.
- Youth who are “susceptible to temptation” would not be guided to keep the moral law.
- Men would lose respect for women, reducing them to mere objects of desire.
- Governments would promote the most effective methods of contraception and mandate their use.
- *Contraception would become a “dangerous weapon” in the hands of rulers.*

Who has been proven the accurate prophet?

The current state of society gives an obvious answer.

Inevitable!

Pope Paul was not making mere guesses based on his own opinion. He was revealing the *inevitable consequences* that naturally follow when men do not obey the **natural moral law — the truth about their nature as created beings and their responsibilities to their Creator.**

Contraception as Abortion

It needs to be made clear that the contraceptive methods mandated to be covered by insurance are by and large *either potentially or primarily abortion-producing*. In 1995, Bl. John Paul noted the connection in *The Gospel of Life*.

“The close connection which exists, in mentality, between the practice of contraception and that of abortion is becoming increasingly obvious. It is being demonstrated in an alarming way by the development of chemical products, intrauterine devices and vaccines which, distributed with the same ease as contraceptives, really act as abortifacients in the very early stages of the development of the life of the new human being.” (#13)

“Forty Years I Endured That Generation” (Ps 95)

Why is all this happening now? Perhaps the question should rather be — Hasn’t God been long-suffering and merciful? Our nation has been “legally” destroying the lives of the innocent unborn for almost 40 years. We have spread contraception and abortion to many nations. We can either wring our hands or *see the light and thank God for His mercy and realize that we still have the time and opportunities to repent and spread the Gospel of life!*

Knowing, Living And Witnessing To The Truth About Life

If the truth about God's plan for human sexuality and marriage is not taught, it will not be lived. The secular media is holding a mirror before the face of the Church and proclaiming the failure of many of her pastors to teach her own people.

If the Church's leaders do not forthrightly teach and guide, and if lay Catholics don't live this teaching, we have lost two of our greatest positive "weapons" against the culture of death.

- **First weapon — grace from obedience:** To oppose the culture of death, the Church needs its members to be *strong in the graces received by living in obedience to God*. Is the Catholic Church in the USA crippled by Catholics who reject the truth of the natural law on human sexuality? Are our Church leaders clearly and vigorously calling them to live this truth? Are they making the means to obedience as easily available as Planned Parenthood has made contraception available?
- **Second weapon — witness:** Living *Humanae Vitae* produces a witness to the truth of faith — united and healthy families. Where is the widespread witness by Catholic people to the truth about marital love and moral sexuality — a visible witness to the goodness and joy of obedience to our Creator? If we do not witness to this, who will?

What Are We to Do?

At Pentecost, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, Peter preached the Gospel for the first time. "When they heard this, they were deeply shaken. They asked Peter and the other apostles, 'What are we to do?'"

Are we not shaken? What are we to do to build a new culture of life within this culture of death? Certainly we must do what the early Christians did within Rome and in pagan cultures even as far away as India.

Foot Soldiers on the Ground!

The **urgent need** right now is the dedicated effort of each faithful Catholic to evangelize those he or she meets every day! There are people who will never read or hear the message unless YOU transmit it by word or by the witness of YOUR life — the same way the early Christians spread the Gospel!

If this doesn't happen more widely, we will not by all our other efforts make the progress that is necessary — the conversion of hearts.

Ask Yourself

There are always fundamental things that enable us to do this. The list may seem obvious, but we must daily reflect on this so that it orders our life. Think about it. The basics are:

- Sacramental living, especially devotion to the Holy Eucharist and frequent confession.
- Live Gospel morality as Jesus said: "Those who love me will keep my commandments."
- More personal prayer, more often.

"How many Catholics, instead of giving a strong witness to the truth, which **God has written on every human heart**, daily scandalize their fellow citizens, that is, daily lead their fellow citizens into confusion and error by acting publicly and obstinately against the law of God?"

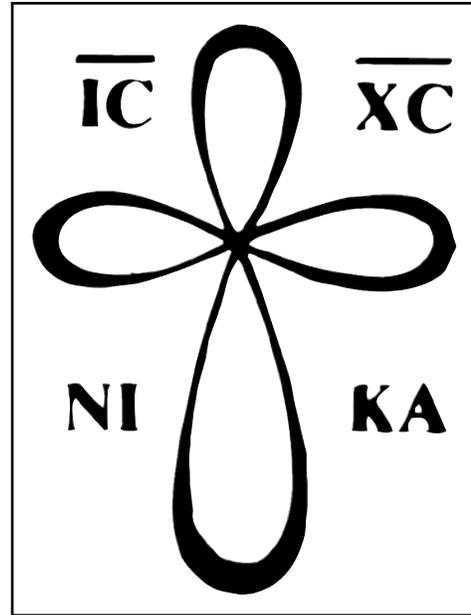
Cardinal Raymond Burke

- Offer penance for our sins and the sins of the whole world as Jesus did.
- Defend your right and the Church's right to religious freedom!
- Build the fellowship of the faithful to make *more visible communities living the truth and loving each other.*

Another Essential

Here is another essential on our list. *We absolutely must exhort and pray for our bishops and our priests and give all their good initiatives our support!*

Even if at times the Church appears to be weak, miserable and ineffective, like Christ on the cross, our duty is to make the Church victorious by means of the graces each one of us receives from Our Lord through her. And why this?



CUL's logo: Jesus Christ, Victor

Jesus Christ Victor:

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

It is obvious that only the Most Holy Trinity, made present to us through the Catholic Church, can and will be the ultimate victor, and the only victor, over these heinous sins and the culture of death. God, the Lord of creation, is offended by the sins against His creative love which made us in His image. In the Church alone will God, in His Incarnate Son, be glorified in the emergence of a new culture of life.

The Time Is Now!

What will it take to wake us up? The time is now! Draw close to God and to each other in prayer, fasting and repentance. Use the sacrament of confession, and start over if necessary. Joyfully and courageously bear witness by your openness to life. Distribute the enclosed pamphlet. Work to overturn the unjust ruling.

And please help us with your generous contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford right now. The time available to us is limited — we need your help right now more than ever as we fight this battle on the legal front as well as on the spiritual front!

Sincerely in Christ,

Shed Stearns

Holy Spirit, Creator, mercifully assist Your Catholic Church, and by Your heavenly power strengthen and establish her against the assaults of all her enemies. By Your love and grace renew the spirit of Your servants whom You have chosen, that in You they may glorify the Father and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

From Father Hardon's *Catholic Prayer Book*, p. 32