

The FIAT Newsletter

A Family Ministry Publication

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish & School, Omaha, NE.

Jan/Feb 2012



***“The more you give of yourself,
the more God will give Himself to you.”***

-St. Louis de Montfort



Some Basics of the Theology of the Body

All of married life is a sacrament. All of married life is meant to be a sign of God's life and love. But this sacrament has a consummate expression. Nowhere do spouses signify God's love more profoundly than when they become "one flesh." Here, like no other moment in married life, spouses are called to participate in the "great mystery" of God's love. But this will only happen if their sexual union accurately signifies God's love.

John Paul II says that the essential element for marriage as a sacrament is the language of the body spoken in truth. This is how spouses "constitute" the sacrament sign of marriage (Jan 12, 1983). Insert contraception into the language of the body and (knowingly or unknowingly) the couple engages in a counter-sign of the "great mystery" - a kind of "anti-sacrament".

Contraceptive practice - and the mentality behind it - demonstrates a total lack of understanding of the exceptional significance of the sexual embrace in God's plan. Contraception says, "Lord and Giver of Life, we don't want you here."

Most couples who use contraception simply have no idea what they are saying with their bodies, so this is not a matter of assigning culpability. But even if a couple is innocent in this regard, contraception will still have its damaging effect on their relationship. In short, how healthy would a marriage be if a husband and wife were regularly unfaithful to their wedding vows? Sexual intercourse is meant to renew and express wedding vows. But contraception turns the "I do" of those vows into an "I do not".

There will be no renewal of marriage and the family without a return to the truth of God's plan for the body and sexuality.

-Excerpts from Theology of the Body for Beginners by Christopher West

Come Holy Spirit!

Archbishop Lucas will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish on Sunday, February 12, 2012. This provides an excellent opportunity to recall the effects and responsibilities of this powerful Sacrament of Initiation.

Confirmation strengthens the life of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit once more to Christian souls with new grace and new strength to lead the Christian life. The Holy Spirit prepares us to be witnesses of Christ by a sincere Christian life, and to spread and defend the Faith while living in the world.

When we are confirmed, a duty is placed on us to bring Jesus Christ, His example, His way of life, and His Church to others. The strength and grace of the Holy Spirit will help us to do so if we show some effort and ask for His help in prayer.

Information from The Precepts of the Church by Father Lovasik S.V.D.

***For information on Natural Family Planning,
Fertility Care, Infertility...contact:***

Pope Paul VI Institute

***Building a Culture of Life
in Women's Health Care***

www.popepaulvi.com

***“Go out to all the world and
tell the Good News.” (Mk 16:15)***

Happy Saints Cyril and Methodius Day! February 14

A quick quiz -- St. Valentine was:

- priest in the Roman Empire who helped persecute Christians during the reign of Claudius II, was thrown in jail and later beheaded on Feb 14.
- a Catholic bishop of Terni who was beheaded, also during the reign of Claudius II.
- someone who secretly married couples when marriage was forbidden, or suffered in Africa, or wrote letters to his jailer's daughter, and was probably beheaded.
- all, some, or possibly none of the above.

If you guessed "d", give yourself a box of chocolates.

Although the mid-February holiday celebrating love and lovers remains wildly popular, the confusion over its origins led the Catholic Church, in 1969, to drop St. Valentine's Day from the Roman calendar of official, worldwide Catholic feasts. (Those highly sought-after days are reserved for saints with more clear historical record. After all, the saints are real individuals for us to imitate.) Some parishes, however, observe the feast of St. Valentine. (www.americancatholic.org)

On Feb. 14, the universal Church will honor brothers Saints Cyril and Methodius, who are called the "Apostles of the Slavs" for their tireless work in spreading the Gospel throughout Eastern Europe in the ninth century.

Born into a prestigious senatorial family in Thessalonica, in 827 and 826 respectively, Sts. Cyril and Methodius renounced their wealth and status. They chose instead to become priests.

Cyril and Methodius took the step of adapting the Greek alphabet into a script for the Slavonic language. The result was the "Cyrillic" alphabet, which was first used to translate the Bible and liturgical books. It also became the primary means of written communication for large portions of the world, including modern day Russia.

Saints Cyril and Methodius' missionary work among the Slavs laid the essential foundation for the later Christianization of Ukraine and Russia in 988, when the Russian Prince Vladimir accepted Baptism. (www.catholicnewsagency.com)

Saints Cyril and Methodius are co-patrons of Europe along with St. Benedict of Nursia.

Disregard for Life Issues

Archbishop Lucas urges you to take note of the serious violation of the principle of freedom of conscience that will be enforced by the current administration in Washington. The U.S. bishops are committed to study the implementation of the new HHS regulations and to work with other Americans of goodwill to reform our laws to change these unjust regulations.

-from Archdiocese of Omaha Communications

Cardinal-Designate Dolan Speaks Out Against HHS Rule

(from Jan 20, 2012 www.USCCB.org/news)

Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), sharply criticized the decision by the Obama administration in which it "ordered almost every employer and insurer in the country to provide sterilization and contraceptives, including some abortion-inducing drugs, in their health plans."

"Never before has the federal government forced individuals and organizations to go out into the marketplace and buy a product that violates their conscience. This shouldn't happen in a land where free exercise of religion ranks first in the Bill of Rights," Cardinal-designate Dolan said.

On January 20, Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the Health and Human Services, announced that non-profit employers will have one year to comply with the new rule.

Cardinal-designate Dolan urged Catholics and the public at large to speak out in protest.

"Let your elected leaders know that you want religious liberty and rights of conscience restored and that you want the administration's contraceptive mandate rescinded," he said.

Teach me your ways, O Lord!

-Psalm 25