

HV50 *Faithful* *to* GOD'S DESIGN

CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMANAE VITAE

*A monthly Reflection
on the
50th Anniversary of
Humanae Vitae*

2018

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**TO THE CLERGY, TO THE
FAITHFUL AND TO ALL
MEN AND WOMEN OF GOOD WILL**



This is who Blessed Pope Paul VI addressed, when he issued his encyclical July 25, 1968 articulating the timeless teaching of the Catholic Church on the "regulation of birth". This *Faithful to God's Design* monthly news is an invitation to all of us---ALL MEN and WOMEN OF GOOD WILL---to reflect on these truths, during this anniversary year, 50 years later.

HUMANAE VITAE SAYS....

Those who enjoy the gift of conjugal love while respecting the laws of the generative process show that they acknowledge themselves to be not the masters of the sources of human life, but rather the ministers of the design established by the Creator. HV 13

FEATURING FR. PAUL CHECK

Excerpted from
Very Good News Indeed
which can be found in its
entirety on the
HV50 Blog at
www.CelebrateHV50.com



Fr Paul Check was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1997. He holds an STL in moral theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. Currently, he serves as the rector of the St John Fisher Seminary Residence, a college seminary and pre-theology program in Stamford, CT. Previously, he served for nine years as the executive director of Courage International, an apostolate of the Catholic Church for men and women who experience same sex attraction, and for their families and loved ones. Fr. Check will be speaking at the HV50 July Celebration, and the Clergy Day preceding it.

VERY GOOD NEWS INDEED

BY FR. PAUL CHECK

Where do we locate the "good news" of Jesus Christ? We find it in the Word of God in Sacred Scripture, announcing to us the "day of salvation." (II Cor 6:2) We are thankful for the Sacraments that bring divine life to the soul and make us citizens of the Kingdom of God. We strive for faith, hope and charity, which help us to become more Christlike. We look to the Cross for the light and strength it offers us in sacrifice and suffering. Even the self-renouncing virtue of humility, as challenging as it is, attracts us, if only because we admire it in others. But what about chastity? Can I say with conviction that I believe that chastity is part of the good news of Gospel? Am I as committed to growing in this human virtue, as I am committed to growing in the theological virtues and to other aspects of the Christian life?

Perhaps we undervalue chastity because we misunderstand it. The word may only suggest something negative to me, i.e. what I am not doing. We might think of chastity solely in terms of temperance—controlling the desire for sexual satisfaction—rather than first in terms of relationships. In other words, chastity is also related to justice, the virtue that calls for us to render another his or her "due." In more plain terms, a chaste heart approaches someone as a person, with inherent dignity, and not just a potential sexual partner. Let's recall how Jesus raised the bar for us in all human relationships, when He recast the second part of the Great Commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." (Jn 13:34) Jesus approaches everyone with reverence, and calls upon us to do the same.

Contraception and sterilization gravely disturb both aspects of God's design for the spouses, by impeding the full gift of self (of one's fertility) and by attempting to separate sex from babies. They may seem to offer a kind of "freedom." But in reality, contraception and sterilization wound the married couple in their capacity for charity, for freedom, and for chaste and pure hearts, because they undermine married love as marked out by human nature and God's plan.

Natural Family Planning, on the other hand, when not used with a selfish will, respects not only the design of human intimacy and love, but also the dignity of the person. The fruits of this reverence are gratitude for the generous gifts of God, and the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And that is very good news indeed.

HV50 My HV HERO

Sheila and John Kippley

nominated by Martha and Bill Sears

Sheila and John Kippley are founders of Couple to Couple League and later Natural Family Planning, International (NFPandmore.org), and staunch defenders of *Humanae Vitae*.



John is a moral theologian who stood strongly with Pope Blessed Paul VI when so many theologians and clergy were critical and dissenting.

Sheila is a La Leche League leader whose knowledge and research into the benefits of breastfeeding according to God's design developed the teaching of Ecological Breastfeeding as a way to naturally space the birth of babies.

Sheila and John gave me encouragement when my husband and I returned to the practice of our Catholic faith ten years ago, to help us understand what had taken place in the Church and with *Humanae Vitae* since we left the practice of our faith in the early 70s. We were happy to share with them that we had taken a Couple to Couple class at a local Catholic parish about thirty years ago when we were discerning the size of our family. At that time we had six children, the last four having been spaced by Eco Breastfeeding. Sadly, we had used hormonal contraception and also used an IUD for awhile in those early years away from Mother Church, experiencing an early miscarriage with the IUD (our MD had reassured us that could not happen, and we were naïve enough to buy into that). Anyway, we finally came to understand God's call on our lives to save our marriage and have more children. We have been blessed with eight – I am an RN and my husband is a pediatrician, so for us that was our vocation.

I am so grateful for the teaching our Church has received from John Kippley, the concept of the marriage covenant, and from Sheila, the concept of Ecological Breastfeeding and the research she has compiled over the decades to keep track of what science has to say about breastfeeding and women's and children's health. In our recently revised book, *The Breastfeeding Book*, due out later in 2018, we have made changes to reflect the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* from a strictly secular angle and to enlighten women as to the dangers of hormonal contraception

HV50 SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

George Weigel Keynote Speaker

George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, is a Catholic theologian and one of America's leading public intellectuals. Author or editor of over twenty books, including *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*, his writings appear regularly

in major opinion journals and national newspapers, and he is the Senior Vatican Analyst for NBC News.



Mr Weigel will speak on:

John Paul II and the Integrity of Love

Theology of the Body and Familiaris Consortio as the mature response of John Paul II to the cultural crisis caused by the contraceptive pill and its effects -- and the roots of that response in both his pastoral work with young couples and his philosophical/theological reflections on those experiences, illustrated by stories from some of those young people.

ABOUT FAITHFUL TO GOD'S DESIGN NEWS

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THINK ABOUT IT....

LOVE IS GIVING

LUST IS STERILE