

HV50  
**Faithful** *to*  
**GOD'S DESIGN**

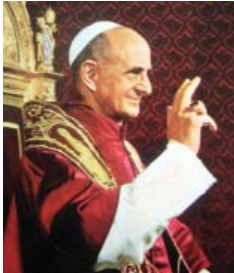
CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMANAE VITAE

*A monthly Reflection*  
on the  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of*  
*Humanae Vitae*

2018

Edition  
N<sup>o</sup>3

**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....**

**The very serious duty of transmitting human life, by reason of which husbands and wives are free and responsible collaborators with God the Creator, has always been for them a source of great joys---joys, however, sometimes accompanied by much difficulty and distress. HV1**

**FEATURING**

**JANET SMITH, PhD**

Excerpted from  
***But NFP Is Difficult***  
which can be found in its  
entirety on the  
HV50 Blog at  
[www.CelebrateHV50.com](http://www.CelebrateHV50.com)



Janet E. Smith, PhD, author of *Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later*, has been published in many academic journals, and is a regular columnist for the National Catholic Register and blogs on CatholicVote.com. and appeared on CNN, Fox News, Geraldo Show, EWTN, and others. She served three terms as a consultant to the Pontifical Council on the Family. More than two million copies of her transforming talk, *Contraception: Why Not?* have been distributed. Dr. Smith will be speaking at the HV50 Conference, and the clergy day preceding it.

**BUT NFP IS DIFFICULT!**

**BY JANET SMITH, PhD**

Those who continue to use NFP in spite of the difficulties because they want to be faithful Catholics are much to be admired. Most of these folks, from my experience, agree that contraception is incompatible with God's plan for sexuality and surely that makes their compliance easier. There are also those who don't really understand or accept the reasoning behind the teaching but who continue to reject use of contraception because they are committed to being faithful members of the Church Jesus established.

Some, however, begin to question the teaching about contraception and thus the status of the Catholic Church as moral teacher as well. They believe their lives would be markedly better if they could use a condom now and then and that they should be permitted to do so.

Then there is the "conscience" question. Aren't people supposed to do what their "consciences" tell them? It must be acknowledged that some of those who reject or are unconvinced about the immorality of attempting to thwart the procreative possibility God wrote into the sexual act, have done their best to understand and accept that teaching. Wouldn't they, then, be acting in good conscience if they use contraception (at least non-abortifacient contraception)? What about those who have tried to understand why fornication or masturbation or adultery or pornography or racism are wrong and just can't seem to get it? They feel they "must" participate in such and don't feel guilty about their behavior. Why shouldn't they "Just follow their conscience"?

You see, the job of the conscience is not to decide if abortion or racism or contraception is right or wrong. Those are truths that an informed conscience (synderesis, really) by virtue of natural law (with the help of revelation and the magisterium) learns and then knows—not judges or decides—to be right or wrong.

Consciences that don't align with the moral teachings of the Catholic Church are pitting private opinion against the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Please see the full article at the HV50 blog at**  
[www.CelebrateHV50.com](http://www.CelebrateHV50.com)

**for a fuller presentation of these points.**

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**HV50**  
**My HV HERO**  
**Ginny Schuberg**

*nominated by Gary Schuberg*

My Mom calmly reasoned with me over Thanksgiving turkey when I'd come home from a "Catholic" college armed with the latest HV dissenting arguments from my uber-cool, goatee-enhanced



philosophy professor. As importantly, she walked the walk, gracing my life with five incredible brothers and then helping found and run the first pro-life pregnancy counseling center in our area, inspiring me in those years to volunteer in pro-life and then be open to life, years later, in my marriage.

Thank you, Mom! *You're my HV HERO!*

Nominate your HV HERO at  
[www.CelebrateHV50.com](http://www.CelebrateHV50.com)

**THINK ABOUT IT....**  
**USING SOMEONE**  
**IS NOT**  
**LOVING THEM**

**ABOUT FAITHFUL TO GOD'S DESIGN NEWS**

Faithful to God's Design News is available in both English and Spanish at [www.CelebrateHV50.com](http://www.CelebrateHV50.com). Sign up on the home page to receive emails, and the most recent edition of Faithful to God's Design will be delivered to your inbox monthly throughout 2018. Permission is granted to share freely, in its entirety, and churches are invited to share monthly in their parish bulletins. Funded by



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**HV50**  
**SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT**

**Christopher West Keynote Speaker**



Christopher West is a best-selling author, speaker, and world-renowned expert in John Paul II's Theology of the Body, a bold, biblical vision of love and sexuality that takes us to the core of what it means to be human. Founder and President of the Cor Project, he leads an international outreach devoted to spreading this liberating teaching and empowering others to live and share it.

***Total Eclipse of the Body: How We Lost Sight of the Meaning of Sex, Gender, Marriage, and Family AND How to Regain It***

In our post-sexual revolution world, we are experiencing a total eclipse of the meaning of the body. A darkness has been cast over our humanity and we simply can no longer see the fundamental significance of the human body to human identity. What has passed in front of the sun blocking the body's meaning? And are there any "astronomers" out there who can explain this phenomenon, who can help us understand why this has happened and if, when, and how the darkness will pass? In this presentation, Christopher West will point to three: Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Paul VI, and Pope John Paul II. He will demonstrate how Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* properly recognized the modern embrace of contraception as the cause of the eclipse, and then demonstrate how Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body provides a solid basis for hope that we won't remain in this darkness indefinitely – the eclipse of the body will pass when, as Mary promised, her Immaculate Heart triumphs.

***Theology of the Body and the New Evangelization: How John Paul II's Spousal Theology Empowers Us to Proclaim the Gospel to the Modern World***

John Paul II's Theology of the Body is most often framed as a catechesis on marriage and sexual love. It is that, but, through his spousal theology, this great mystic saint has given us a lens through which to view the entire Christian mystery, and he's given us a new language with which to share the age-old truth of the gospel with the modern world. In this session Christopher West follows John Paul II's, Benedict XVI's, and Pope Francis's lead in reframing the gospel as a the only adequate response to the deepest longings of the heart, a longing the Church does not hesitate to call "eros"!

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