



Rekindle the Gift of Life. No to Contraception.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE OF THE MONTH:**

JEREMIAH 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you

**HOUSEHOLD TEACHINGS OF THE MONTH:**

CONTRACEPTION: THE CULTURE OF DEATH by Fr. Ed Broom

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH:**

1-Share your honest insights on the topic of Contraception.

2-In what way/s am I a "Cafeteria Catholic?"

3-What do I commit to do/not do to be faithful to the Church teachings?

**SONG OF THE MONTH:***Wonderfully Made*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ghzll5KGTno>**SAINT OF THE MONTH:**

St. Gerard

**MEDIA OF THE MONTH (PAPAL ENCYCLICAL):***Humanae Vitae*http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html**JOKE OF THE MONTH:**

Kids Say the Darndest Things

**"FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD" APPLICATION OF THE MONTH:**

Go to a Planned Parenthood facility with your household and pray for the end of abortion.

APRIL 2018



Rekindle the Gift of Life. NO to Contraception.

Dear CFC USA Family:

Blessed Easter and Feast of the Divine Mercy greetings dearest CFC USA brethren!

ROH Warning: *This month's ROH topic and those in the next few months will deal with sensitive and controversial issues we as CFC have to deal with, discuss and pray about.*

After spending 40 days in our personal deserts during Lent, reflecting upon the indescribable love of God for us through the passion and death of Jesus Christ, we now glory in the hope of Easter and further ponder on His unfathomable and Divine Mercy that he lovingly bestows upon us all. How blessed we are to be the beloved children of God! How blessed we are for the gift of this beautiful life that we enjoy with the loving presence of God within us. How blessed we are to have parents who through the marital love they have for one another, their openness to life and their unconditional love for us have gifted us with our lives. Do we all have the same love for the gift of life? Living in a dog-eat-dog world where the various negative “-isms” of the world reign (i.e. materialism, consumerism, moral relativism, minimalism, etc.), do we compromise our Catholic beliefs and values for the sake of “being practical”?

Although the Catholic Church teaches that **artificial** contraception, such as condoms and birth control pills, is morally unacceptable, a recent poll states that most American Catholics, including those who go to church on a regular basis, have no moral problem with such contraception. Just 8% said contraception is morally wrong, with 89% saying it was either morally acceptable or not a moral issue at all.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's Papal Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* which “prophesied” that marriages and society would suffer if the use of contraception became widespread. In section 17 of the document, he made the following four, much-talked-about predictions of what would happen in society as a result of

widespread contraceptive use:

- 1) An increase in marital infidelity.
- 2) A general lowering of moral standards.
- 3) A loss of respect for women (man would “reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires”).
- 4) Governments would coerce people into using contraception and intervene in citizens’ sexual relationships.

Do you think that these predictions have come true in one form or another? Our marital union, as an icon of the love of Jesus for His Bride the church is called to be a total gift of self to the other that is free, faithful and fruitful. This is why artificial contraception is “intrinsically” evil.

As we all strive for holiness and desire to be Saints, my prayer is that we, as CFC, be steadfast in our resolve not only to obey all Church teachings (Catholic Natural Family Planning) but to be faithful in relation to this issue in practicing the Spiritual Works of Mercy to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, and admonish the sinner. As we celebrate this Easter Season and Divine Mercy Sunday, may we, with the grace of God be building bridges of hope and mercy to others. May our battlecry be:

Yes to Life! No to Artificial Contraception!

In Christ through Mary,

Bro. Toffee Jeturian

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE OF THE MONTH

JEREMIAH 1:5

Before **I formed you** in the womb,
I knew you.



TEACHING OF THE MONTH: CONTRACEPTION:

The Culture of Death

BY FR. ED BROOM

The atomic bomb that exploded in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused irreparable damage in the moment that the bomb exploded, but even to this day vestiges and remnants of that catastrophic day, and its repercussions can be felt.

The moral-spiritual-ethical atomic bomb exploded one day and the day was July 25th, 1968! What and where and how was this bomb detonated? It was in the early years of the pontificate of Pope Paul VI, in a very explosive time in the history of the world. Students were rebelling in colleges, the sexual revolution was priming up, the hippies had made their appearance and the “Rock n’Roll” music of the Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and the Beach Boys were resounding loud and clear.

At the same time there were huge strides in science, among which was the discovery of “The Pill”. A “Pill” was discovered that could prevent the ovulation of the woman and thereby prevent the birth of a child. For many, this was perceived as a huge accomplishment for science, for humanity and for the sake of the whole world! Conception and the birth of children could simply be avoided by taking a pill with its chemical contents!

The Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, called together a consulting board to look into and to study the issue, the experts in this area of ethics and medicine, to eventually make a decision on this topic.

After the consultation had terminated, the Vicar of Christ, concluded the issue promulgating a Papal encyclical with the title, “*Humanae Vitae*” (On Human Life). In short, the Holy Father affirmed the centuries of teaching on human sexuality in clear and unequivocal terms. “Every conjugal act between husband and wife must be open to the possibility of life— procreation, in which man and woman collaborate with God in bringing into existence a new person with an immortal soul. Therefore, any use of any

artificial means of preventing conception, termed “Contraception” is intrinsically disordered! In other words, this act is morally unacceptable, put bluntly in catechetical terms, “A Mortal sin”. Never should contraception be allowed or permitted between a couple!

Behind the scene, as one of the mayor collaborators and consultants on this topic and the promulgation of the encyclical was a young, 48 year old Archbishop from Krakow, who had written spiritual literary masterpieces on the subject of human sexuality namely *Love and responsibility* and *The Acting Person*. We know this Archbishop as Saint Pope John Paul II—“The Great!”

The moral-atomic bomb exploded throughout the world, especially in the first world countries. Europe did not take to the encyclical, but even less theologians and even Bishops in North America! Outright dissent, anger, rebellion, antagonism, antipathy, are a few words that express the attitude of many towards this statement of the Supreme Pontiff!

A key example was the prestigious catholic-priest-theologian in one of the most famous catholic universities in the country, Fr. Charles Curran, professor of Moral Theology in the Catholic University in Washington D.C, where Fulton Sheen had held a chair a few years earlier!

Curran objected, stating that this was not a pronouncement “De-fide”, a teaching only present in the Ordinary Magisterium and therefore, was not binding on conscience. In other words, individuals were free to “follow their conscience”. If it were the case that a couple felt it necessary to take advantage of the modern discovery of the “Pill”—contraception—then they were free to use it, under the stipulation that they were following “their conscience”. In other words, the individual conscience is supreme and should reign over all!

Further north, in Canada, the “Winnipeg Document” was signed by many of the Canadian Bishops openly defying this teaching of the Holy Father and the Magisterial teaching of *Humanae Vitae*. Archbishop Fulton Sheen noted that the church is weak from within when there is division. This document divided the church into two camps:

the minority (relatively few “anawin”) who maintain their fidelity to the Holy Father and his teachings; then there is the huge majority, who at whim and will decide for themselves what they believe to be the truth!

How can this situation of the majority choosing their own belief-system be defined? Situation Ethics! Morality depends on persons, places, events, social mores and is subject to change. No absolute morality can truly be posited. Equal to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who stated that all in the world is subject to “Perpetual Flux”—meaning all changes, and that refers to morality. In other words, there is no such thing as “Absolute Truth”.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, coined an immortal phrase that explains perfectly this state of moral uncertainty and confusion: “The Dictatorship of moral-relativism”. Individuals determine to dictate for themselves what morality is! Finally, the famous convert to Catholicism, and Bible scholar Dr. Scott Hahn coined the pithy summary of this false-philosophy as “Cafeteria-Catholicism”. It is probably what you conjecture! As in a cafeteria you can pick and choose what you prefer to eat, so also in morality you can choose what you like and discard what proves to be distasteful to your moral taste buds! In other words, Jesus as Good Shepherd and heaven are to be chosen, but Hell or even the pains of Purgatory and practicing moral constraint with respect to sexual abstinence, these can be rejected!

Much of this confusion started with the outright rebellion against the encyclical of Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*. There is a moral “free-for all” in which individuals want to choose for themselves what is right and wrong!

Our conclusion to this modern state of affairs and the remedy is not overly-complicated! It all boils down to one simple word: OBEEDIENCE!

Does absolute truth exist? Yes! Where? In a Person: Jesus Christ! He is truly present in His Mystical Body which is the Catholic Church. The Church has the invisible Head—Jesus glorified in heaven. But also, there is a visible Head of the Church here on earth. Jesus promised us that He would be with us always even until the end of time. This

visible "Head" is Jesus' Successor, who is called the Pope, Holy Father, Vicar of Christ. When the Pope speaks on matters regarding faith, morals and dogma, he cannot make a mistake. Why? Due to the simple reason: that when he teaches in this capacity he is infallible because it is the Holy Spirit— God Himself— that is inspiring and guiding the Pope in these all-important and crucial matters. The Holy Spirit is God and the Truth! Therefore, to avoid falling into the moral abyss of total confusion related to moral relativism, we must humbly obey and submit to all of the teachings of the Holy Father, the Pope, because he who hears Peter ("The Pope") also hears **Jesus and Jesus is the Truth and the Truth will set you free!**



DISCUSSION/REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Faithful and Fruitful.

- 1- Share your honest insights on the topic of Contraception.
- 2- In what way/s am I a "Cafeteria Catholic?"
- 3- What do I commit to do/not do to be faithful to the teachings of the Church?





SONG OF THE MONTH:

Wonderfully Made

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ghzll5KGTno>

Looking out into the night sky
 A million stars shining down and
 I can see how you'd feel so small

Don't forget I'm your Creator
 You are Mine and I adore you
 Nothing else moves My heart like you
 You're not here by chance, you are My design
 I did well to give you life

Refrain: You are fearfully and wonderfully made
 Long before you drew your first breath
 I knew your name
 Surely goodness and mercy
 Will follow you forever
 For you are fearfully and wonderfully made

Looking deep into your eyes
 You're beautiful, like no one else
 I smile when I think about your face

You were made in My own image
 Carefully, My love would finish
 Forming you into who you are
 I won't let you go, I'm here with you always
 I'll watch you grow strong because I know

Refrain



SAINT OF THE MONTH:

St. Gerard Majella (CATHOLIC ONLINE)

Feast day: October 16

Patron of expectant mothers
Death: 1755

Beatified By: January 29, 1893,
by Pope Leo XIII

Canonized By: December 11, 1904,
by Pope Saint Pius X

St. Gerard Majella is the patron of expectant mothers. He was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy to a family of seven. Majella grew up in a poverty with a great respect for the poor. As he was just 12 when his father passed away, he was forced to grow up fast. Shortly after his father's death, his mother sent him away to live with his uncle and learn to become a tailor, like his father. After a few years of working as a sewing apprentice, Majella took on a job with the local Bishop of Lacedonia as a servant.

Once Majella began earning money as a journeyman at the age of 21, he split his earnings with his mother, the poor of Muro and the rest in offerings for the poor souls. As the days passed, Majella began to grow pale and thin, often fasting and in prayer at a nearby Cathedral.

He applied to the Capuchin monastery at Muro twice, but was turned down both times. Majella was told his health was not well enough for such a strenuous life. However, Majella did not give up. In 1749, at the age of 23, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer and just three years later became a professed lay brother.

Majella lived with the three vows of Poverty, Chasity and Obedience. He stayed close with the poor and worked very many different jobs. He served as sacristan, gardener, porter, infirmarian, and tailor. However, because of his great piety, extraordinary wisdom, and his gift of reading consciences, he was permitted to counsel communities of religious women. Majella was often called on by the poor and the sick. Wherever his presence was demanded he graciously presented himself. He was there to "do the Will of God."

This humble servant of God also had faculties associated with certain mystics including, levitation, bi-location and the ability to read souls. His charity, obedience, and selfless service as well as his ceaseless mortification for Christ, made him the perfect model of lay brothers.



Throughout his years of life, several reported miracles are tied to Majella including, restoring a boy's life after he fell from a high cliff; blessing a poor farmer's crops, ridding it of mice; blessing a poor family's supply of wheat, causing it to last until the next harvest; and he multiplied bread for the poor on several occasions.

Along with his miracles effected through prayers for woman in labor, Majella's last recorded miracle is one that many credit toward his becoming the patron of expectant mothers. Shortly before his death, Majella encountered a young girl. He had dropped his handkerchief and she set out to return it, only to be told to keep it. Majella told her she "may need it someday." Years after Majella's passing, the young girl became married and with

child. She unexpectedly went into labor and was on the verge of losing her baby. She called for Majella's handkerchief to be applied to her. Almost immediately, her pain abated and she proceeded to give birth to a healthy child, something very rare during that time.

His prayers are sought for the children, unborn children, women in childbirth, mothers, expectant mothers, motherhood, falsely accused people, good confessions, lay brothers and Muro Lucano, Italy. Even as Majella became ill with tuberculosis, he only desired to live in God's will. His one last request was that a small placard be placed on his door stating, "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills." Majella was told the Will of God wanted him to get better, and almost at once he became well. However, this only lasted for a month and quickly he became very ill once again. St. Gerard Majella died of disease on October 16, 1755 at the age of 29, living in the religious life for six years.

Due to the numerous miracles performed through Majella's prayers, proceedings for his canonization began shortly after his death. In 1893, Majella was beatified by Pope Leo XIII and on December 11, 1904, Pope Pius X canonized the man of God.

Prayer of the Month: Prayer to St. Gerard

PRAYER TO SAINT GERARD

O Great Saint Gerard, beloved servant of Jesus Christ, perfect imitator of your meek and humble Savior, and devoted Child of the Mother of God: enkindle within my heart one spark of that heavenly fire of charity which glowed in your heart and made you an angel of love. O glorious Saint Gerard, because when falsely accused of crime, you did bear, like your Divine master, without murmur or complaint, the calumnies of wicked men, you have been raised up by God as the Patron and Protector of expectant mothers. Preserve me from danger and from the excessive pains accompanying childbirth, and shield the child which I now carry, that it may see the light of day and receive the lustral waters of baptism through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN



MEDIA OF THE MONTH

Papal Encyclical: *Humanae Vitae*

http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html



JOKES OF THE MONTH:

Little Kids say the Darndest Things

TAKE 1:

Two kids are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works twelve hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"

The other kid says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!" The first kid says, "What if they try to escape?"

TAKE 2:

Little Girl to her friend: "Having kids is tough. I hear they take nine months to download."

TAKE3:

For weeks a six-year-old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house.

One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and said, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"



"FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD" APPLICATION OF THE MONTH:

Pray for the unborn.

Go to a Planned Parenthood facility with your household and pray for the end of abortion.