



St. Ignatius of Antioch Church

999 Reading Avenue Yardley, PA
contact@stignatius.church

215-493-3377
www.stignatius.church

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

July 21, 2019

**"MARY HAS
CHOSEN THE
BETTER PART
AND IT WILL
NOT BE TAKEN
FROM HER."**

LUKE 10:42



SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday: 5:15PM Vigil Mass

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM

Children's Liturgy of the Word: at 9:30AM Mass

Daily, Monday to Friday: 9:00AM

***Special Schedules for Holy Days**

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week, 365 Days a Year

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 4:00 to 5:00PM

Confessions will also be heard upon request.

Please call the rectory to make an appointment.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Sunday—CLOSED

Monday– Thursday 9:00AM—4:00PM

Friday - CLOSED

Saturday—CLOSED

Daily Readings and Mass Intentions

Sunday July 21, 2019

Dt 30:10-14; Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37; or Ps 19:8-11; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37

7:30AM Robert Kelty, Sr. (Dolores Kelty and Family)

9:30AM Albert Reed (Tim and Lois Collins)

11:30AM Clifford C. Crawford (Joe, Mary Claire, and Claire Marie Rossi)

Monday July 22, 2019

Sgs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

9:00AM Daniel Collins Sr. (Tim and Lois Collins)

Tuesday July 23, 2019

Ex 14:21—15:1; Ex 15:8-9, 10 and 12, 17; Mt 12:46-50

9:00AM Don Elia (The Klementovich Family)

Wednesday July 24, 2019

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28; Mt 13:1-9

9:00AM Diane Mays (The Mays Family)

Thursday July 25, 2019

2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

9:00AM Laura Matulis (The McGovern Family)

Friday July 26, 2019

Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 13:18-23

9:00AM Dean and Adele Fletcher (Jim Fletcher)

Saturday July 27, 2019

Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Mt 13:24-30

5:15PM John - Warrio Jimenez (The Young Family)

Sunday July 28, 2019

Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-3, 6-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

7:30AM Al Living and Deceased Parishioners

9:30AM Dominick and Damian DeGoria / living (Ruby and Michael Kirkup)

11:30AM Gabriella Raggio (Ana Reilly and Family)

RECTORY SUMMER HOURS

Sunday—CLOSED

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM—4:00PM

Friday - CLOSED

Saturday—CLOSED

July 21, 2019

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord, as mediated by three men visitors, appears to Abraham. This is a storytelling device that points out both the nearness and the mysteriousness of God.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:24-28

St. Paul “fills up” through his afflictions what is “lacking” in those of Christ and it gives him what he needs to endure for preaching the gospel authentically. He speaks of the mystery of the word of God that is open to all.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Martha and her sister Mary host Jesus in their home, typifying the practice of the early Church. “The better part”, the one thing most important for Jesus, was listening to His word. This Mary did while Martha bustled about.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of Frank DeFelice requested by Debora and John McConnell.



St. Joachim and St. Anne Pray for Us
Feast Day: July 26th

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Andrew C. Brownholtz, Pastor	215-493-3377	fracb@stignatius.church
Deacon Robert J. Skawinski	215-493-3377	contact@stignatius.church
Deacon Michael Cibenko	215-493-3377	contact@stignatius.church
Mary Ann DiTommaso, School Principal	215-493-3867	siprincipal@school.org
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Trevor Dooley, Junior High Youth Minister	267-391-7693	youth@stignatius.church
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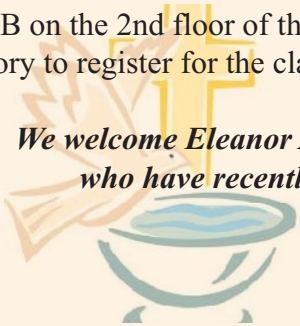
BECOMING A PARISHIONER

Whether it's your first time here or you have been coming to Mass here for years, we welcome you to join our parish. Please contact the rectory to register.

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered on Sundays at 12:45PM. Pre-Jordan class, for the first child only, is required for parents. Class is held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00PM in room 2B on the 2nd floor of the Meeting Center. Parents, please call the rectory to register for the class or for a Baptism.

We welcome Eleanor Aashna Andriks and Avery Jane Lyczkowski who have recently been baptized into our Catholic faith.



St. Ignatius of Antioch

Catholic Cemetery
& Columbarium

Our Outdoor Columbarium Niches, located in the memorial circle in the center of our cemetery, are now available for sale. Double granite front niches are intended to be used for the cremated remains of two persons behind a marble shutter. If you have any questions, or are interested in purchasing a niche, please visit our parish website at www.stignatius.church or call the Rectory at 215-493-3377.

RCIA

Information is available for those who are considering becoming a member of the Catholic Faith . Please contact the Director of Religious Education, Annmarie Flanagan, at 215-493-5204 or 215-370-5701.

WEDDINGS

Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance. Please call the rectory to make an appointment with one of the priests.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

Parishioners are encouraged to let the rectory know when they are in the hospital, nursing home, or other medical care facility. Please contact the rectory if you or anyone you know might be ill, a shut in or unable to attend Mass on a weekly basis. The Holy Eucharist will be brought to anyone homebound.

EMAIL PHISHING

Email Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details (and money), often for malicious reasons, by disguising as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication (email). An email was recently sent out pretending to be from Fr. Brownholtz. The scammers are trying to get those targeted to purchase iTunes gift cards and send in the numbers. If you received one of these emails, please delete it immediately. We will never request funds via email from Fr. Brownholtz directly, especially from a third party source. Secondly if someone tries to trick you into purchasing any gift cards through an email, it is ALWAYS a scam. Important rule of thumb, when in doubt... ask someone! We have reported this to the proper authorities. Thank you and please always be mindful when receiving these types of emails and phone calls.

ROSARY

All are invited to recite the rosary after the 9:00 Mass. For those who can stay longer, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is also recited. The rosary is also recited at the following times: 4:45pm Saturday Nights, 6pm Wednesdays in our Blessed Mother's Meeting Room (#2D Antioch Meeting Center), 10am Tuesdays Rosary for Healing (Chapel), 3pm Fridays Sacred Heart Rosary (Chapel)

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

	<u>7/15/2018</u>		<u>7/14/2019</u>	
Sunday Offering	\$15,090.50	329	\$14,158.50	292
Online Parish Giving	\$ 3,653.38		\$ 4,485.32	
Total Weekly Contribution	\$18,743.88		\$18,643.82	

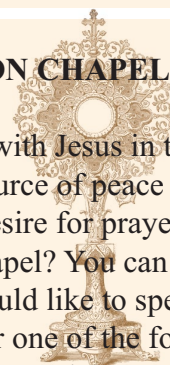
We are very grateful for the support of our parish!



Save the Date!
St. Ignatius Parish
2019 Barbecue Picnic
Saturday September 21, 2019
following a special 4:00pm Mass
Great food, good company
and live music!
More details to follow!

ADORATION CHAPEL

Did you know? Spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a great source of peace and comfort. It also increases our desire for prayer. Won't you spend some time at our Chapel? You can visit anytime day or night. If you would like to spend an hour each week, please consider one of the following open hours: Sunday 4pm, 5pm, Tuesday 8am, Thursday 7pm, Friday 7pm Saturday 4pm and 6am. Kindly call Marianne Kloc at 267-346-0152 if you would like more information.





Lord hear our prayer for the sick in our community that they return to the comfort of good health:

Loretta Amerine, Sabrina Amerine, Sharon Brann, Bob Borges, Pat Brodowski, Kathy Carmody, Ruthann Carroll, Daniel Castillo, Brynn Clare Connor, Cliff Conway, John Corra, Mary C. Crawford, Jessica DiRienzo, Frank Fazzalore, David Fry, Cindy Golden, Sherry Golden, Tina Golden, Tom Golden, Rose Ann Grall, Richard Green, Jonathan Grubb, Madeline Guarnieri, Charles Jacobson, Ryan Law, Chuck Kane, Andrew Kelly, Betsy Keys, George Kinsley, Edmund Liwoch, Jane Liwoch, Sean Marriott, Scott McDowell, Dorothy McMullen, Tracey Meaney, Kathleen Merlo, Eileen Murphy, William Murphy, Christine Nassar, Nabil Nassar, Jean Oddis, Irene Schuka, Darwin Stout, Elaine Tabackin, Catherine Torres, Charles Weber



remember to Pray for our Troops Daniel Basheda, Matthew Bauer, Melissa Bishop, Christian Blaydon, Sara Brill, Mark Buckley, Michael Joseph Buckley, Brad Bullman, Evan Cummings, Brent Cummings, Kevin O'Brien Darby, Staten DeTample, Andrew Dill, Ronald Ernst, Anthony Fuscarello, Jessica Garcia, Shane Gibbons, Stephen Greene, Jonathan Grubb, Edward Hill, David & Christine (Kawoczka) Krueger, Matthew Krall, Justin Kumor, Daniel LaMorte, Thomas LaMorte, Matt Leonardo, James Limer, Matthew Listner, Michael Lowe, W. Kyle Magrisi, Joseph Marchand, Greg Marolo, Matthew McGurk, Phil Melandez, Chris Merrick, David Morgan, Kevin Nash, Stephen Neder, Fred Olivari, John O'Rourke, John Pariente, J.C. Peabody, Laura Perazzola, Gregory B. Procaccini, Jason Propst, Matthew Rieser, Luke Stapleton, James Tams, Scott Toro, John Worman.



PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

God our Father, Thank you for calling Griffen Schlaepfer, Andrew Lane, Michael Lewis, and Philip Cheung to prepare for priesthood. Grant them the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer. Help them form their personalities as credible witnesses to others. Bless them while they study Your word and the teachings of the Church, and give them generous hearts to serve Your people. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.
Amen

To learn more about our seminarians visit <http://heedthecall.org/poster/>



PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED especially those who have no one to pray for them, and the Holy Souls in purgatory.



HELP WANTED

St. Ignatius of Antioch is looking for a school cleaner/housekeeper. Six hours per day, five days a week, \$16.00 per hour. If you are interested, please send a letter and resume to hr@stignatius.church. More information about this position can be found on our parish website - www.stignatius.church.

HELP WANTED

St. Ignatius of Antioch School is looking to hire part time aides and substitutes for the 2019 -2020 school year.

For more information please contact Mrs. Mary Ann DiTommaso at 215-493-3867 or siprincipal@sischool.org

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

All are invited - as we sing God's praises and share in His Word and His Love in an intimate community of faith. We meet every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30PM in Room 2F in the Meeting Center. For more information, please contact our spiritual prayer group director, Deacon Bob Skawinski, at rjcs1219@verizon.net.

Parish Clean Up!



Saturday, August 3rd **Church Auditorium @ 9 - 12**

Refreshments will be served
by the ***Family Ministry***

- Stay as long as you want- ANY help is valuable!*
- Parish wide event- ALL ages of volunteers welcome*
 - You sign up for the task YOU want*
 - We can find a task for ALL abilities*
 - Great for those needing volunteer hours*
- ALL supplies provided...just bring a desire to serve*

RSVP by July 31st

Search YardleyFamilyMinistry@gmail.com **on**
Sign Up Genius (preferred),
email, or call Parish

ADULT Faith FORMATION

The Adult Faith formation ministry invites any parishioner of St. Ignatius parish to join us at our meetings on the first Wednesday of every month to come up with new ideas and programs for our parish. We especially are in need of individuals that have some expertise or experience in marketing so as to better encourage our parishioners to join us for some information sharing and socialization.

Faith formation is a team sport.

We need you and cannot 'win the battle' without you. Tryouts are on Saturdays from 9-10:30 AM on only 8 Saturdays a year. See our schedule. We need more players; no uniform necessary; amateurs as well as professionals welcome. No injuries occur; no sweating occurs, and yet, this team sport is an excellent spiritual work out, both of mind and spirit. You would be surprised, you may even like it and have more skill than you know. Our trifold brochures will be out next month outlining all of our programs for the upcoming year. If you have been to our programs before, thank you; if not, why not try one and see how it goes and if you do come bring a friend, it is a method of evangelization!!!

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

Intercessory Prayer: For all those who give mercy, may they receive mercy.

Respect



"As a mom who had my first baby in college, I know that an unexpected pregnancy can sometimes bring fear, shame, and doubt. However, I also know that an unexpected pregnancy can bring joy, excitement, awe, gratitude, and deeper love than I knew was possible—not to mention the little bundle who inspires these sentiments!" USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting

Jesus was an unexpected baby for Mary, a 14 year- old virgin dedicated to the Temple. John the Baptist was an unexpected baby. Isaac was an unexpected baby. God DOES have a plan and His plan is for all of us for all salvation and we do not realize how we interrupt and interfere with that plan when we play god and decide that a life is not worth living by ending it in abortion or euthanasia or by preventing it with contraception or sterilization. The Catholic Church does not teach that every one should have unlimited numbers of children, but what it does teach is that those married couples are called to responsible parenthood and those unmarried couples are called to chastity and abstinence until marriage. We are given the gift of Natural Family Planning to help us decide our fertile and infertile times and NFP is NOT the same as contraception, anymore than murder is the same as natural death. This week is NFP Awareness Week.

Our Lady of Guadalupe pray for us.

Intercessory Prayer: For our parish community:

That we may always be ready to extend generous hospitality to those in need, such as mothers facing unexpected pregnancies; We pray to the Lord

Rose of Life: For all who promote and teach natural family planning.

SIYA

(St. Ignatius Young Adults)

Are you looking for something more?

SIYA meets weekly to provide time for young Catholics (ages 18-28) to encounter each other apart from the pressures of the world. Join for weekly fellowship time, Bible studies, adoration, and food.

Meetings: Thursday 8:30 PM
Antioch Center first floor



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 26, 2019
9 AM to 4:30 PM

National Shrine of
Our Lady of Czestochowa
654 Ferry Road
Doylestown, PA

REGISTRATION

- \$55 general admission
- \$45 groups of 5+
- \$20 college students
- \$15 religious sisters

Register online:
catholicwomensconference.org

Questions? Send us an email:
womensconference@archphila.org

One elective or annual update credit for catechetical certification will be granted to catechists and school teachers of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for full-day attendance.

SPONSORS





St. Ignatius of Antioch School
**“A Community of Faith,
Academics and Service”**



Religious Education

From the Religious Education Office...

The Religious Education Office is closed during the month of July. It will reopen on August 1.

PREP registrations can be mailed or dropped off at the rectory. You can download information and the registration form (1 form per child please) on the Parish website (www.stignatius.church). Since July 1, the regular tuition cost applies. Click on PREP.

If you are new to the parish or will have children entering kindergarten or grade 1 in the fall, we will also need a copy of your child(ren)'s Baptismal certificate unless he/she was baptized here at St. Ignatius Church. Our Religious Education program is open to students in grades K through 8.

GRADE 8 Students: Parents, please encourage your 8th grade students to continue Religious Education after Confirmation. Confirmation is a beginning – not an ending.

“Special Needs” Class: Parents, are you aware that we have a special needs class that meets during the Wednesday PREP time at 6:30 p.m.? This class is for those students who would benefit from a very small group learning experience.

PREP CLASSES BEGIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9; and WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Parents, please don't be afraid to volunteer. We always need Catechists, Classroom Aides, and Door Monitors. In August, new Catechists participate in a Catechist Orientation Course, so you will not begin teaching “cold turkey.” Think it over and pray about it. We have several Catechists who have worked in our program for many years; it is truly a rewarding experience, and our students are great kids.

SACRAMENTS:

CONFIRMATION: Students in grade 7, who have been in Religious Education classes for several years, will prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

FIRST RECONCILIATION and FIRST COMMUNION: Students usually receive these Sacraments in grade 2 after they have completed the grade 1 curriculum.

Parents, if your child has not been in Religious Education classes consistently, and you want him/her to receive the Sacraments, please speak with Annmarie (215-493-5204). We do make accommodations. No child will ever be refused.

School Supply Drive Weekends of Aug. 3rd/4th & 10th/11th

Please help needy families in Bucks County by providing new supplies including: backpacks, glue sticks, hand-held pencil sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, marble composition books, No. 2 pencils, three-ring binders (1 in.), loose-leaf notebook paper, ballpoint pens, index cards, spiral notebooks, highlighters, pocket folders, rulers, pencil pouches for binders, and pencil boxes and/or Target or Walmart gift cards. The St. Ignatius Social Action Committee, in conjunction with Catholic Social Services, would like

to ease the burden many Bucks County families experience when trying to provide the needed school supplies for their children. There will be a collection bin near the main entrance before and after the Masses on the first and second weekends of August.

EXCERPTS FROM

Married Love and the Gift of Life



This bulletin insert is excerpted from *Married Love and the Gift of Life*, a statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that was approved at its November 2006 General Meeting.

Men and women considering marriage yearn for certain things. They want to be accepted unconditionally by each other. They want their marriage to be filled with love and happiness. They want a family. In short, they want their marriage to be a source of joy and fulfillment their whole life long.

God's plan for marriage, from the time he first created human beings as male and female, has always included all this and more.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT MARRIED LOVE?

Marriage is more than a civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. It is an intimate partnership in which husbands and wives learn to give and receive love unselfishly, and then teach their children to do so as well. Christian marriage in particular is a "great mystery," a sign of the love between Christ and his Church (Eph 5:32).

Married love is powerfully embodied in the spouses' sexual relationship, when they most fully express what it means to become "one body" (Gn 2:24) or "one flesh" (Mk 10:8, Mt 19:6). The Church teaches that the sexual union of husband and wife is meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CONTRACEPTION?

A husband and wife express their committed love not only with words, but with the language of their bodies.

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God's gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God's creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple's unity. The total giving of oneself, body and soul, to one's beloved is no time to say: "I give you everything I am—except. . . ." The Church's teaching is not only about observing a rule, but about preserving that total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity.

ARE COUPLES EXPECTED TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILY SIZE ENTIRELY TO CHANCE?

Certainly not. The Church teaches that a couple may generously decide to have a large family, or may for serious reasons choose not

to have more children for the time being or even for an indefinite period (*Humanae Vitae*, no. 10).

WHAT SHOULD A COUPLE DO IF THEY HAVE A GOOD REASON TO AVOID HAVING A CHILD?

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman's cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way.

This is the principle behind natural family planning (NFP). Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it.

WHAT IS NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING?

Natural family planning is a general name for the methods of family planning that are based on a woman's menstrual cycle. A man is fertile throughout his life, while a woman is fertile for only a few days each cycle during the child-bearing years. Some believe that NFP involves using a calendar to predict the fertile time. That is not what NFP is today. A woman experiences clear, observable signs indicating when she is fertile and when she is infertile. Learning to observe and understand these signs is at the heart of education in natural family planning.

When a couple decides to postpone pregnancy, NFP can be very effective. NFP can also be very helpful for couples who desire to have a child because it identifies the time of ovulation. It is used by many fertility specialists for this purpose. Thus a couple can have marital relations at a time when they know that conception is most likely to take place.

IS THERE REALLY A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USING CONTRACEPTION AND PRACTICING NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING?

On the surface, there may seem to be little difference. But the end result is not the only thing that matters, and the way we get to that result may make an enormous moral difference. Some ways respect God's gifts to us while others do not. Couples who have practiced natural family planning after using contraception have experienced a profound difference in the meaning of their sexual intimacy.

When couples use contraception, either physical or chemical, they suppress their fertility, asserting that they alone have ultimate control over this power to create a new human life. With NFP, spouses respect God's design for life and love. They may choose to refrain from sexual union during the woman's fertile time, doing nothing to destroy the love-giving or life-giving meaning that is present. This is the difference between choosing to falsify the full marital language of the body and choosing at certain times not to speak that language.

IS IT TRUE, AS SOME CLAIM, THAT SOME METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL CAN CAUSE AN ABORTION?

Some methods of birth control are aimed at preventing the union of sperm and egg and therefore act only as contraceptives. These would include barriers such as condoms and diaphragms.

By contrast, hormonal methods such as the Pill may work in several ways. They can suppress ovulation or alter cervical mucus to prevent fertilization, and thus act contraceptively. But they may at times have other effects, such as changes to the lining of the uterus. If the contraceptive action fails and fertilization takes place, these hormonal methods may make it impossible for a newly conceived life to implant and survive. That would be a very early abortion. Medical opinions differ on whether or how often this may occur. Currently there is no way to know precisely how these drugs work at any given time in an individual woman.

Concern about the risk of causing an early abortion is stronger in the case of pills taken after intercourse to prevent pregnancy ("emergency contraception" or "morning-after pills"). In some cases these pills are taken when sperm and egg have already joined to create a new life, in which case the drug could not have any effect except to cause an early abortion.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF CONTRACEPTION ON SOCIETY? ON MARRIED COUPLES?

Many would likely be surprised at how long all Christian churches agreed on this teaching against contraception. It was only in 1930 that some Protestant denominations began to reject this long-held position. Those opposed to this trend predicted an increase in premarital sex, adultery, acceptance of divorce, and abortion. Later, in 1968, Pope Paul VI warned that the use of contraception would allow one spouse to treat the other more like an object than a person, and that in time governments would be tempted to impose laws limiting family size. Pope John Paul II called attention to the close association between contraception and abortion, noting that "the negative values inherent in the 'contraceptive mentality' . . . are such that they in fact strengthen this temptation [to abortion] when an unwanted life is conceived" (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 13).

These predictions have come true. Today we see a pandemic of sexually transmitted diseases, an enormous rise in cohabitation, one in three children born outside of marriage, and abortion used by many when contraception fails. A failure to respect married love's power to help create new life has eroded respect for life and for the sanctity of marriage.

CONCLUSION

By using contraception, couples may think that they are avoiding problems or easing tensions, that they are exerting control over their lives. But the gift of being able to help create another person, a new

human being with his or her own life, involves profound relationships. It affects our relationship with God, who created us complete with this powerful gift. It involves whether spouses will truly love and accept each other as they are, including their gift of fertility. Finally, it involves the way spouses will spontaneously accept their child as a gift from God and the fruit of their mutual love. Like all important relationships with other persons, it is not subject solely to our individual control. In the end, this gift is far richer and more rewarding than that.

The Church's teaching on marital sexuality is an invitation for men and women—an invitation to let God be God, to receive the gift of God's love and care, and to let this gift inform and transform us, so we may share that love with each other and with the world.

Where to Learn More

WEB SITE

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/index.shtml. (Offers information on Church teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood, methods of natural family planning [NFP], where to find local classes, and which NFP organizations offer home study programs.)

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Pope John Paul II. Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*On the Value and Invulnerability of Human Life*). Washington, DC: USCCB, 1995.

Pope Paul IV. Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (*On the Regulation of Birth*). Washington, DC: USCCB, 1968.

The statement *Married Love and the Gift of Life* was developed by the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and was approved by the full body of bishops at its November 2006 General Meeting. This bulletin insert, containing excerpts from the statement, has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Msgr. David J. Malloy, STD
General Secretary, USCCB

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Publication No. 7-006
USCCB Publishing
Washington, D.C.
ISBN 978-1-60137-006-8