

PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the controversial yet profoundly significant papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Issued in July of 1968, HV was critically received in the US by a nation in the throes of swift and sometimes violent turmoil, including Vietnam, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Sexual Revolution.

With this disruption coupled with the invention and widespread availability of "the Pill" by the early 1960's, many expected, even demanded, the Catholic Church reverse its traditional opposition to contraception.

Instead, and to the surprise of many, Pope Paul VI issued HV to not only reaffirm the Church's implacable opposition to artificial contraception, but also to describe the sufferings of a society that did not. A people that accepted artificial contraception could, the pope prophesied, expect four difficulties to arise:

1. Increased infidelity and decreased general morality: The secular argues that the universal availability of contraception would reduce divorce, abortion, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and venereal disease. Paul VI suggested the reverse. Judging from the last 50 years, who was correct?

2. Loss of Respect for Women: Contraception fosters in men, the Holy Father explains, the treatment of women as instruments of selfish enjoyment. Consequently, both men and women may regard their bodies as mechanical instruments to be manipulated for their own purposes, poison for relationships of trust, love, sacrifice, and equality.

3. Abuse of Governmental Power: Government "Family Planning" makes way for and even forces sterilizations, abortions, one child policies, the redefinition of families, and an "anti-child" mentality on those in its power.

4. Unlimited control of their own bodies: Refusal to accept bodily regulations and limitations and acting to circumvent them leads one assume total control over his body. Not true. Our bodies are God's gift to us through which we are to convey Him to each other. If you have the time, read *Humanae Vitae* and marvel at its prophetic power.

With joy and gratitude for the days ahead!
Fr. Seth

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE WEEK OF 7/8/18

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| St. Mary's \$1931 | Budget (\$1,900) +\$31 |
| Sacred Heart \$1415 | Budget (\$900) +\$515 |
| Visitation \$422 | Budget (\$400) +\$22 |
| St. Sebastian \$665 | Budget (\$400) +\$265 |

LONGITUDE

2018 July, 29, SUN:

7:00pm, FASA Songest, Franklin Methodist Church.

Thursday Adoration & Confession

Thurs, July 19:

6:00-8:00pm, Sacred Heart, Franklin.

Thurs, July 26:

6:00-8:00pm, St. Mary's, New Berlin.

Thurs, August 2:

6:00-8:00pm, Visitation BVM, Alexander.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Marilyn Fitzpatrick, Joe Gaston, Lois Pitchford, Lisa Richardson, Judy Byer, Mary Hemberger, David Hermes, Nancy Flach, Cecelia Peters, Roseanne Hartley, Calyssa Richie, Dale Fitzpatrick, Mary McCray, Carl Bertolotti, Heather Boudreau, Jane Ryan, Jean Knight, Tina Green, Sy & Judy Haber, Donna Reichart, Presley Kerber, Joyce Henn, Olivia Loving, George Eck, Opal Sutera, Tony & Theresa Yates.

DEATHS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Keith Crow, parishioner of Sacred Heart, who passed away on Wednesday, July 4, 2018. A funeral Mass was held on Saturday, July 7, 2018, at Sacred Heart.

May the angels lead him to paradise

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Charles Walk, parishioner of St. Sebastian, who passed away on Tuesday, July 3, 2018. A funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at St. Sebastian.

May the angels lead him to paradise