



From the Desk of Fr. Leo F. Arnone

The Culture of Death vs. The Gospel of Life: It appears that the Pro-Life cause is going to face some very serious challenges with

the incoming administration. With most of its Cabinet in favor of abortion, same-sex unions, erosion of the traditional family, euthanasia, assisted suicide and birth control, serious-minded pro-lifers are going to have to step up their efforts. Intentional Disciples of Christ do not role over or throw in the towel when things look bad. On the contrary, we get motivated and we get moving.

I recently listen to a Venerable Fulton Sheen homily in which he said “There can be no Easter without a Good Friday,” and then encouraged his listeners to maintain hope in the midst of hardship and to make the best of those bad days. He reminded us of what all Christ endured for our redemption and then urges us to offer up the hardships we will endure as penance for our personal sins and/or as atonement for the sins of our nation.

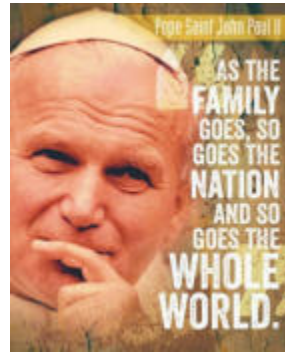
I’m particularly concerned that the new administration (which seems to be steeped in the culture of death) will undo the pro-life progresses made until now – they have already promised to undo the Hyde Amendment which prohibits federal funds to pay for abortions.

Providentially, I just read in pamphlet from Priests for Life the following quote: “*When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the Final Judgment, I’ve often thought. As Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates. You are there standing alone before God, and the terror will grip your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the por-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world. They will plead for everyone who has ever been in the movement. They will say to God, “Spare him because he loved us.” And God will look at you and not say, “Did you succeed?” Rather, He will say, “Did you try?”* (Congressman Henry Hyde).



Did you try with your vote – voting for pro-life advocates and against those known to be abortion advocate? Did you try with communications to your representatives? Did you try by signing petitions urging pro-life actions and/or against culture of death attempts? Did you try by raising your prayers to God, esp. at Mass?

I predict that the next two to four years will see big victories for the culture of death – lots more added to the ranks of the Holy Innocence! But my Faith assures me and motivates me that the Gospel of Life has already won thanks to Christ’s victory of sin and death. Now, it’s our time to promote His victory by way of our pro-life actions.



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

II - SERVING LIFE

1. *The Transmission of Life* **Cooperators in the Love of God the Creator**

28. With the creation of man and woman in His own image and likeness, God crowns and brings to perfection the work of His hands: He calls them to a special sharing in His love and in His power as Creator and Father, through their free and responsible cooperation in transmitting the gift of human life: "God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.'"

Thus, the fundamental task of the family is to serve life, to actualize in history the original blessing of the Creator - that of transmitting by procreation the divine image from person to person.

Fecundity is the fruit and the sign of conjugal love, the living testimony of the full reciprocal self-giving of the spouses: "While not making the other purposes of matrimony of less account, the true practice of conjugal love, and the whole meaning of the family life which results from it, have this aim: that the couple be ready with stout hearts to cooperate with the love of the Creator and the Savior, who through them will enlarge and enrich His own family day by day."

However, the fruitfulness of conjugal love is not restricted solely to the procreation of children, even understood in its specifically human dimension: it is enlarged and enriched by all those fruits of moral, spiritual and supernatural life which the father and mother are called to hand on to their children, and through the children to the Church and to the world.

The Church's Teaching and Norm, Always Old Yet Always New

29. Precisely because the love of husband and wife is a unique participation in the mystery of life and of the love of God Himself, the Church knows that she has received the special mission of guarding and protecting the lofty dignity of marriage and the most serious responsibility of the transmission of human life.

Thus, in continuity with the living tradition of the ecclesial community throughout history, the recent Second Vatican Council and the magisterium of my predecessor Paul VI, expressed above all in the Encyclical *Humanae vitae*, have handed on to our times a truly prophetic proclamation, which reaffirms and repropose with clarity the Church's teaching and norm, always old yet always new, regarding marriage and regarding the transmission of human life.

For this reason, the Synod Fathers made the following declaration at their last assembly: "This Sacred Synod, gathered together with the Successor of Peter in the unity of faith, firmly holds what has been set forth in the Second Vatican Council (cf. *Gaudium et spes*, 50) and afterwards in the Encyclical *Humanae vitae*, particularly that **love between husband and wife must be fully human, exclusive and open to new life** (*Humanae vitae*, 11; cf. 9, 12)."

Reflection: Willful birth control (in all of its forms) countermands the dignity and purpose of marital vocation and the conjugal act and, therefore, is against the Will of God for married couples.