



From the Desk of Fr. Leo F. Arnone

Anticipating Lent: It is not too early to begin considerations of how you want to observe this Lenten Season. By now, I hope we've begun

something of a Lenten tradition here in Cresson, namely: **The 1-1-1 PLAN. ONE SIN:** Concentrate or focus on one personal sin or fault that is getting in the way of your relationship with God and with others. **ONE ADD-IN:** Add one positive activity that will deepen your prayer and spiritual life. **ONE GIVE-UP:** Deny yourself something that you really like or are attached to. Write these down to remind yourself daily.

Effective Pray, Fasting & Almsgiving: To get the most out of your Lenten observances, it is best to begin with a positive attitude and a genuine desire to bear fruit through your efforts. Regardless of your current prayer habits, consider adding to it by doing something more or something different. I highly recommend Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and Stations of the Cross. If you are going to give up food and drink, then be sure to give the money you would have spent on yourself to charity. Strive to be as generous as you can with your time, talents and treasure.



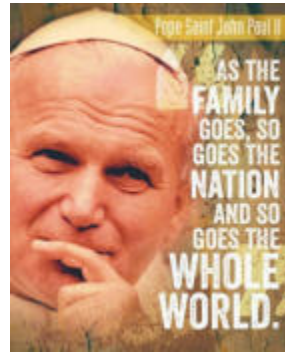
Mass Schedule: I will offer three Masses to accommodate my three charges. On Wed, Feb. 17 the 9:00am Mass will be EXCLUSIVELY for All Saints Catholic School students and staff. Masses for the parishes will be at 6:00pm at SA and at 7:30pm at FX.



Power House Sub Sale: Orders and payment made to St. Aloysius Church need to be placed by Mon, Feb. 8 for delivery on the 24. I imagine most of us will have something for lunch that Wednesday – we might as well have a sub – and maybe an apple dumpling! Order forms are available in the vestibules and our parish websites.



Made This Way: How to Prepare Kids to Face Today's Tough Moral Issues. After presenting the Church's teaching on the topics of sex outside marriage, same-sex marriage, divorce, contraception, abortion, reproduction technology, modesty, pornography, transgendered identity and homosexuality, the author gives practical advice for little kids and big kids. A reader was so impressed they donated 20 copies to make available to others. Come see me if you'd like a copy.



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

II - SERVING LIFE

1 *The Transmission of Life* *In an Integral Vision of the Human Person and of His or Her Vocation*

32. In the context of a culture which seriously distorts or entirely misinterprets the true meaning of human sexuality, because it separates it from its essential reference to the person, the

Church more urgently feels how irreplaceable is her mission of presenting sexuality as a value and task of the whole person, created male and female in the image of God.

In this perspective the Second Vatican Council clearly affirmed that "when there is a question of harmonizing conjugal love with the responsible transmission of life, the moral aspect of any procedure does not depend solely on sincere intentions or on an evaluation of motives. It must be determined by objective standards. These, based on the nature of the human person and his or her acts, preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love. Such a goal cannot be achieved unless the virtue of conjugal chastity is sincerely practiced."

It is precisely by moving from "an integral vision of man and of his vocation, not only his natural and earthly, but also his supernatural and eternal vocation," that Paul VI affirmed that the teaching of the Church "is founded upon the inseparable connection, willed by God and unable to be broken by man on his own initiative, between the two meanings of the conjugal act: the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning." And he concluded by re-emphasizing that there must be excluded as intrinsically immoral "every action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible." (Meaning: any device or procedure that interrupts the unitive and procreative purpose of the conjugal act is immoral.)

When couples, by means of recourse to contraception, separate these two meanings that God the Creator has inscribed in the being of man and woman and in the dynamism of their sexual communion, they act as "arbiters" of the divine plan and they "manipulate" and degrade human sexuality-and with it themselves and their married partner-by altering its value of "total" self-giving. Thus, the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality.

When, instead, by means of recourse to periods of infertility, the couple respect the inseparable connection between the unitive and procreative meanings of human sexuality, they are acting as "ministers" of God's plan and they "benefit from" their sexuality according to the original dynamism of "total" self-giving, without manipulation or alteration.