

## The Heart of Marriage ... “Self Gift”

Humanae Vitae (HV) is an encyclical written by Pope Paul VI on July 25, 1968 to reaffirm the orthodox teaching of the Catholic Church on married love, responsible parenthood and the continued rejection of unnatural forms of birth control and abortion. It affirmed traditional Church moral teaching on the sanctity of life and the procreative and unitive nature of conjugal relations.

Pope Paul VI prophesied in this encyclical about the consequences of dissenting from the Church’s teachings on marital love:

**Infidelity and moral decline:** He predicted that the widespread use of contraception would “lead to conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality.”

**Loss of respect for women:** Paul VI argued that “the man” will lose respect for “the woman” and “no longer (care) for her physical and psychological equilibrium” and will come to “the point of considering her a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion.”

**Abuse of power:** The Holy Father saw that the widespread use of contraception would place a “dangerous weapon...in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies.”

**Unlimited dominion:** He warned that contraception would lead man to think he had unlimited dominion over his own body.

In summary, Pope Paul VI states that marital relations are much more than a union of two people. They constitute a union of the loving couple with a loving God, in which a new person can be created, and upon which God completes the creation by adding the soul. For this reason, Pope Paul VI says right in the first sentence of HV that the transmission of human life is a most serious role in which married people collaborate freely and responsibly with God the Creator. This is a divine partnership that takes its origin from God, who is love, and from this basic dignity Pope Paul VI defines his position:

*Love is total — that very special form of personal friendship in which husband and wife generously share everything, allowing no unreasonable exceptions and not thinking solely of their own convenience. Whoever really loves his partner loves not only for what he receives, but loves that partner for the partner’s own sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of himself.*

*Married love is also faithful and exclusive of all other, and this until death. This is how husband and wife understood it on the day on which, fully aware of what they were doing, they freely vowed themselves to one another in marriage. Though this fidelity of husband and wife sometimes presents difficulties, no one has the right to assert that it is impossible; it is, on the contrary, always honorable and meritorious. The example of countless married couples proves not only that fidelity is in accord with the nature of marriage, but also that it is the source of profound and enduring happiness.*

*Finally, this love is fruitful. It is not confined wholly to the loving interchange of husband and wife; it also contrives to go beyond this to bring new life into being. "Marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare."*

Approved

St. Bernard's Finance Council  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting  
Bulletin Summary

**Attendance:** Fr. Gregory, Andy Kleindl, Ralph Laumann, Sherry Witte, Leo Willems

**Guest:** Roger Storms

Meeting called to order 7:00 pm

Prayer said by Fr. Gregory

Roger provided an update on the Church Beautification plans and bids. There are still some bids coming in and options to look at.

Review and approval of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes, with minor changes.

Approved June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting agenda.

2018-19 Budgets:

Cemetery Budget: Budget has been approved as presented. Hope to contact parishioners to help update family history or plot needs of people who own plots.

Capital: Forward in Faith – budget approved with adjustments.

Parish: Budget approved with adjustments.

Discussion on bringing Catholic Community Foundation out to talk to parishioners about a St. Bernard Fund that they could contribute to – tabled until next Finance Council meeting.

Discussion on hiring a communication person and how it will affect budget.

Sherry update:

- Leo Willems and Sherry went to Catholic Mutual Insurance Seminar on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Pace Prism application is due August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Father John Joyce Fund – looking for details from the Arch Diocese on fund status.
- Sherry provided the council with a worksheet outlining the projects currently planned and their impact on finances.

Motion to move \$3000 to CCF fund.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Choir stairs – working with Dan to finalize plans and get bid and time frame.
- Church Steeple – start time in July.
- School Roof – proxy approved. B&Gs recommended using Allied Roofing, motion made and approved.
- Bat Control in Rectory – done and paid for.
- Pea Rock in Playground – will be done.
- Exit Lights – working on new batteries or replacing.

Next meeting is July 16<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

ST. BERNARDS RUMMAGE, BAKE & BOOK SALE

**BAKE**  
  
**SALE**



**WEDNESDAY JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 8:00AM – 6:00PM**

**THURSDAY JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> 8:00AM – 6:00PM**

**FRIDAY JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 8:00AM – 3:00PM**  
**FRIDAY IS BAG DAY**

Proceeds benefit St. Bernards Youth Programs

**Catholic United**  
**Financial**   
Every step, every journey, we're there for life

**Books from top  
selling authors**

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**Come early for best  
selection**

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**Baked goods for  
sale!**

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**Catholic United  
Financial Matching  
grant of up to  
\$1000**

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representative:**

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*Lynn Neumann*  
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**ST. BERNARDS  
SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

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