



2323 Montgomery Drive  
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**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector  
 Fr. Gabriel Sanchez, Parochial Vicar  
 Rev. Bala Putchakayala, Parochial Vicar  
 Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence  
 Deacon Mike Heinzelman  
 Deacon Gary Moore  
 Deacon Russ Bowden

**WEBSITES**

Parish: [www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)  
 School: [www.steugenesch.org](http://www.steugenesch.org)  
 Email Comments/Suggestions to:  
[Office@steugenes.com](mailto:Office@steugenes.com)

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Parish Office Phone	(707) 542-6984
Parish Office Fax	(707) 542-1621
Religious Education	(707) 326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	(707) 526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	(707) 578-8848
School Office	(707) 545-7252
Preschool Office – Tess Mellor	(707) 528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	(707) 206-5579

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

**REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH**

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

**MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS**

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



**MASS TIMES**

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.  
 Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.  
 Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS**

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

**PERPETUAL ADORATION**

**Perpetual Adoration** is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: (707)542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: (707)710-5094

**Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament** is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

**DEVOTIONS**

**Recitation of the Rosary** is Monday – Saturday at 7:25 a.m. in the Cathedral

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

**CATHEDRAL SHOPS**

**Cathedral Thrift Shop** Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am– 2:30 pm

**Cathedral Books & Gifts** Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30 am- 4:30pm & Sun 8:30am-1:30pm, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: (707)542-0250

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 16, 2023

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY JULY 16

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon,  
1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm  
Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

#### MONDAY JULY 17

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### TUESDAY JULY 18

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Women of the Word – PLC – 9:00 am  
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY JULY 19

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm

#### THURSDAY JULY 20

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### FRIDAY JULY 21

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### SATURDAY JULY 22

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am  
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm  
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm  
(Spanish)

### ~PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION~

Register your child now for the Parish School of Religion (PSR) 2023-2024 school year! The Parish School of Religion partners with the Cathedral of St. Eugene families to bring the youth of the parish to Christ through authentic catechesis in the Beauty, Goodness, and Truth of the Catholic Faith. We offer: Ongoing Catholic formation for students 1st grade through high school; preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession, 1st Communion & Confirmation; dedicated teaching by the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa & lay catechists. **Where:** St. Eugene's School **When:** Tuesdays from 3:45 - 5:00pm; September through May. Pick up registration forms in the vestibules, at the parish office, or register online at our parish website ([www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)). **\*Last day to register is Monday, July 31st.\*** Contact Sr. Mary Emmanuel, MSSR with any questions at 707-326-3408 or [srmaryemmanuel2@gmail.com](mailto:srmaryemmanuel2@gmail.com)

### Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

### ADMINISTRATION

#### For the Week of: 7/2/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$18,297.
Second Collection: <i>Peter's Pence</i>	\$3,167.

### ~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

July is the month of the Precious Blood, and our Special of the Month for July is the book, "The Precious Blood: The Price of Our Salvation" by Fr. Faber. During July only, it is 25% off. Fr. Faber calls it the price of our salvation, for Our Lord died from loss of blood. He notes that it is out of the Precious Blood that men draw martyrdoms, vocations, celibacies, austerities, heroic charities and all the magnificent graces of high sanctity. *Also, we are in need of volunteers to help out in our shop. If you can give at least 4 hours of week, we will gladly put you to work!* The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at: 707-542-0250.

### ~NEW TO THE PARISH?~

If you are new to St. Eugene's, *Welcome!* We hope you find a spiritual home here. Please formally register in the parish and be a part of our family. Come to the Parish Office Mon-Fri, 9-4 to register - a welcome packet awaits you there. Registration cards are also available in the front and east church vestibules.

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### ~VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLED~

We are sorry to tell you that we have had to cancel our plans to have a Vacation Bible School this week (July 17 – 21) due to low enrollment. We will try again next year! Those who had already registered or volunteered to help will be contacted individually to handle the cancellation.

#### ~REGISTER NOW~

St. Eugene's Cathedral School is well into its registration process for the 2023-24 school year. We are proud of our students and our school. We offer an excellent academic education with a challenging curriculum integrated with gospel values. We are accepting applications for all grades. Come by the school office to pick up an application or call 545-7252, and we'll send an application to you. You can also go to: [www.steugenesch.org](http://www.steugenesch.org) - "Admissions".

The bulletin submission deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. We reserve the right to edit or omit items. E-mail items to: [office@steugenes.com](mailto:office@steugenes.com).

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 15</b>
8:00 am	George Skikos, deceased
4:30 pm	George & Chris Schirle, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Celeste Vasquez, deceased
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 16</b>
7:30 am	Pedro Guzman, deceased
9:00 am	McShane & Stronge Families, living & deceased
10:30 am	Paul Wallace, living
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Stanley Wynn Hayes, deceased
5:30 pm	Maria Guadalupe Sanchez Villasenor, deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Jacqueline Hathaway, deceased
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 17</b>
6:45 am	Lisa Tran, living
8:00 am	Paulina Pelaez, living
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 18</b>
6:45 am	Fred Wallace, deceased
8:00 am	Deirdre McCormick, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Valeria Calderon, living
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 19</b>
6:45 am	Eugene Cashman, deceased
8:00 am	Anne Reilly, deceased
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 20</b>
6:45 am	Gustavo Angel Aceves, deceased
8:00 am	Tony Nelson, living
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 21</b>
6:45 am	Jason Tran, deceased
8:00 am	Leopoldo Tercero, deceased
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Mike Pendergast, deceased
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 22</b>
8:00 am	Joe Saludes, deceased
4:30 pm	James Chuta, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Jose Carrillo Sanchez, deceased

### ~NATURAL FAMILYPLANNING~

As Natural Law and the Church tell us, artificial contraception is something that Catholic couples cannot partake in/of. Therefore, all engaged and married couples are invited on August 19 to attend the first of three in-person NFP classes. The subsequent classes will be on Sept. 16 and Oct. 14t. To sign up for the classes, , please visit [www. ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org)."

## SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

### ~DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY~

Join us for a new daytime Bible Study Class beginning on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Parish Life Center (Hope Room) every Friday from 9:00 am until 12:00 Noon. We will read sections of the Bible at each meeting along with watching an accompanying video for instruction on what we just read and discussion. The only requirement is that you bring your own Catholic Bible. To sign-up or get more information, please call Andy Skrypka at 707-758-5882.

## 2nd COLLECTION INFORMATION

### ~TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~

This weekend, July 15 & 16, our Second Collection is for our school's Tuition Assistance Program. Next weekend, July 22 & 23, there will be no Second Collection. Finally, below you will see some information regarding the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP). St. Eugene's takes up a collection for the SVDP whenever a month has a fifth Sunday. This month that means this will be our Second Collection on the weekend of July 29 & 30.

### ~ST. VINCENT DE PAUL~

Thank you for your continued support of St. Vincent de Paul. People always need food and we have helped 1,182 people with \$12,291 in food aid in the 1st 7 months of our fiscal year, thanks to your support. The requests we get for rental assistance have grown in the last couple of years and continue to be a challenge for us. We helped 20 families with \$6,734.00 rent so far this year. So, you can see your support is more important than ever for us to continue helping people. The St. Eugene SVDP Food Pantry, located next to our Thrift Shop, assists an average of 125 each month thanks to your donations. If you'd like to volunteer and help us in helping others, please call Nancy at 707-328-1579.

## IN MEMORIAM

### †WILLIAM PETER NICHOLL†

Please remember William "Bill" Nicholl and his family and friends in your prayers. He passed away on 6/26/23. "Eternal rest grant unto him. O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him." *May he rest in peace.*

### ~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Joan Cosgrove, Denise Ealy, Becky Harber, Ernest Lanford, Daniel Bruce Moore, Megan Ingrassia and Art Haake.

# MY CATHOLIC FAITH

## ON PARABLES & CONTRACEPTION

### ~FROM THE PASTOR~

Our readings this week inspire us to look below the surface of what is being presented to us and to see the deeper meaning in the word of God. For example, when the disciples asked Jesus why He always spoke in parables, He told them that those who seek the Truth would understand the deeper, spiritual meaning of the parables, whereas those who do not seek the Truth would just see the parables as quaint stories. People certainly don't change over time, do they? We see this in people today! Some are willing to do the hard work of reading God's word, praying about His word and seeking guidance from the Church about God's teachings, and others are content to listen, but not hear or read but not comprehend and go on their merry way. So, we will read an article that will hopefully teach us a bit more about parables and why they are such a perfect way of imparting God's mysteries. I'd like to also look at a concept that is implied in our first reading from the book of Isaiah. We read, "My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, **achieving the end for which I sent it.**" Here, we see a sentence with a meaning that is not often fully grasped, namely, the fact that God makes everything for a purpose, or, as Aquinas would say, He makes things "properly ordered." Those who have a fertile heart that seeks to know and understand the teachings of God, can start connecting the dots, whereas those who listen but do not hear, won't dig deeper. As we connect the dots of the words in bold print, we understand that if everything created has a purpose, an ordered design, then our bodies too are designed with a purpose in mind. Our lungs are designed to provide our body with oxygen, our stomachs are designed to provide our bodies with the necessary nutrients to sustain life and our reproductive organs are designed for procreation. Now, no one in our modern day and age argues about the design, the purpose, of our lungs or our stomachs, but for some reason, there is a lot of argumentation about the purpose of our reproductive organs. Why? Because modern man has separated the primary purpose of marital intimacy (the bringing forth of new life) from the secondary purpose (pleasure). I say primary purpose because if you look at our physical design, we are designed

for reproduction. This is why contraception is such a grave sin, because "the end for which we were designed" is being intentionally thwarted. This is also why same-sex relationships are deemed to be "disordered" because they are not following the end for which we were designed. The primary purpose of a design is always that which is necessary to fulfill "the end", whereas the secondary purpose is not. For example, we must eat to stay alive, but it is not imperative that we enjoy what we eat. Most likely, prisoners who must eat moldy bread with dirty water every day probably don't enjoy such a meal, but it does serve to sustain their lives. With this in mind let us read a few articles that will enlighten us more.

## PARABLES

### ~WHY PARABLES?~

Parables are also perfect examples of how the various senses of scripture are revealed. Each parable has a **literal sense** (conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis) as well as a **spiritual sense**. The spiritual sense of parables can further be separated into its **allegorical sense** (a more profound understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ); its **moral sense** (how they ought to lead us to act justly); and its **anagogical sense** (in terms of their eternal significance, leading us toward our true homeland). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* adds to this notion, explaining how, "**parables are like mirrors for man:** will he be hard soil or good earth for the word? What use has he made of the talents he has received?" (CCC 546) If Jesus used straight definitions when describing the Kingdom of God, it would make it seem like a person could somehow "control" it and "grasp" for it. Instead, the Kingdom of God must be pondered within one's heart, as Mary did with everything that happened in her life. It must be internalized and take on a personal meaning that is unique, further leading that one individual towards a deeper relationship with Christ. While we may be tempted to want "the straight facts," Jesus invites us through parables to go embrace the mystery of God and recognize our inability to fully grasp who God is and what his plan is for us. By Philip Kosloski, <https://aleteia.org/2019/08/30/what-are-parables-and-why-did-jesus-use-them/>

## CONTRACEPTION

### ~A CONSTANT TEACHING~

In 1968, Pope Paul VI issued his landmark encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae* (Latin, "Human Life"), which reemphasized the Church's constant teaching that it is always intrinsically wrong to use contraception to prevent new human beings from coming into existence. Contraception is "any action which, either in anticipation of the conjugal act [sexual intercourse], 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" (*Humanae Vitae* 14). This includes sterilization, condoms and other barrier methods, spermicides, coitus interruptus (withdrawal method), the Pill, and all other such methods.

### ~SOME HISTORY~

Few realize that up until 1930, *all* Protestant denominations agreed with the Catholic Church's teaching condemning contraception as sinful. At its 1930 Lambeth Conference, the Anglican church, swayed by growing social pressure, announced that contraception would be allowed in *some* circumstances. Soon the Anglican church completely caved in, allowing contraception across the board. Since then, all other Protestant denominations have followed suit. Today, the Catholic Church alone proclaims the historic Christian position on contraception. Evidence that contraception is in conflict with God's laws comes from a variety of sources that will be examined in this tract.

### ~NATURAL LAW~

Contraception is wrong because it's a deliberate violation of the design God built into the human race, often referred to as "natural law." The natural-law purpose of sex is procreation. The pleasure that sexual intercourse provides is an additional blessing from God, intended to offer the possibility of new life while strengthening the bond of intimacy, respect, and love between husband and wife. The loving environment this bond creates is the perfect setting for nurturing children. But sexual pleasure within marriage becomes unnatural, and even harmful to the spouses, when it is used in a way that deliberately excludes the basic purpose of sex, which is procreation. God's gift of the sex act, along with its pleasure and intimacy, must not be abused by deliberately frustrating its natural end — procreation.

### ~THE BIBLE~

The Bible mentions at least one form of contraception specifically and condemns it. *Coitus interruptus* was used by Onan to avoid fulfilling his duty according to the ancient Jewish law of fathering children for one's dead brother. "Judah said to Onan, 'Go in to your brother's wife, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.' But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife he spilled the semen on the ground, lest he should give offspring to his brother. And what he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he slew him also" (Gen. 38:8-10). The biblical penalty for not giving your brother's widow children was public humiliation, not death (Deut. 25:7-10). But Onan received death as punishment for his crime. This means his crime was more than simply not fulfilling the duty of a brother-in-law. He lost his life because he violated natural law, as Jewish and Christian commentators have always understood. For this reason, certain forms of contraception have historically been known as "Onanism," after the man who practiced it, just as homosexuality has historically been known as "Sodomy," after the men of Sodom, who practiced that vice (see Gen. 19)..."

### ~THE POPE WAS RIGHT~

Pope Paul VI predicted grave consequences that would arise from the widespread and unrestrained use of contraception. He warned, "Upright men can even better convince themselves of the solid grounds on which the teaching of the Church in this field is based if they care to reflect upon the consequences of methods of artificially limiting the increase of children. Let them consider, first of all, how wide and easy a road would thus be opened up towards conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality. Not much experience is needed in order to know human weakness, and to understand that men—especially the young, who are so vulnerable on this point—have need of encouragement to be faithful to the moral law, so that they must not be offered some easy means of eluding its observance. It is also to be feared that the man, growing used to the employment of anti-conceptive practices, may finally lose respect for the woman and, no longer caring for her physical and psychological equilibrium, may come to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment, and no longer as his respected and beloved companion" (HV 17). For entire article, go to: <https://www.catholic.com/tract/birth-control>

**CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 16 de Julio del 2023**  
**15° Domingo de Tiempo Ordinario**

***SOBRE PARÁBOLAS Y ANTICONCEPCIÓN***

~DEL PASTOR~

Nuestras lecturas de esta semana nos inspiran a mirar por debajo de la superficie de lo que se nos presenta y a ver el significado más profundo en la palabra de Dios. Por ejemplo, cuando los discípulos le preguntaron a Jesús por qué hablaba siempre en parábolas, Él les dijo que los que buscan la Verdad entenderían el significado espiritual más profundo de las parábolas, mientras que los que no buscan la Verdad sólo verían las parábolas como historias. Lo vemos en la gente de hoy. Algunos están dispuestos a hacer el trabajo duro de leer la palabra de Dios, orar acerca de Su palabra y buscar la guía de la Iglesia acerca de las enseñanzas de Dios, y otros se contentan con escuchar, pero no oyen o leen pero no comprenden y siguen su camino alegre. Así pues, vamos a leer un artículo que espero nos enseñe un poco más sobre las parábolas y por qué son una forma tan perfecta de impartir los misterios de Dios. También me gustaría analizar un concepto implícito en nuestra primera lectura del libro de Isaías. Leemos: "Mi palabra no volverá a mí vacía, sino que hará mi voluntad, **logrando el fin para el que la envié**". Aquí vemos una frase con un significado que a menudo no se capta del todo, a saber, el hecho de que Dios hace todo con un propósito, o, como diría Santo Tomás de Aquino, hace las cosas "debidamente ordenadas". Los que tienen un corazón fértil que busca conocer y comprender las enseñanzas de Dios, pueden empezar a conectar los puntos, mientras que los que escuchan pero no oyen, no profundizarán. Al conectar los puntos de las palabras en negrita, entendemos que si todo lo creado tiene un propósito, un diseño ordenado, entonces nuestros cuerpos también están diseñados con un propósito en mente. Nuestros pulmones están diseñados para proporcionar oxígeno a nuestro cuerpo, nuestros estómagos están diseñados para proporcionar a nuestros cuerpos los nutrientes necesarios para mantener la vida y nuestros órganos reproductores están diseñados para la procreación. Nadie discute el diseño, la finalidad, de nuestros pulmones o nuestros estómagos, pero por alguna razón se discute mucho la finalidad de nuestros órganos reproductores. ¿Por qué? Porque el hombre moderno ha separado el propósito primario de la intimidad marital (el nacimiento de una nueva vida) del propósito secundario (el placer). Digo propósito primario porque si nos fijamos en nuestro diseño físico, estamos diseñados para la reproducción. Por eso la anticoncepción es un pecado tan grave, porque se está frustrando intencionadamente "el fin para el que fuimos diseñados". También por eso las relaciones entre personas del mismo sexo se consideran "desordenadas", porque no siguen el fin para el que fuimos diseñados. El propósito primario de un diseño es siempre el necesario para cumplir "el fin", mientras que el

propósito secundario no lo es. Por ejemplo, debemos comer para seguir vivos, pero no es imprescindible que disfrutemos de lo que comemos. Lo más probable es que los presos que deben comer todos los días pan mohoso con agua sucia no disfruten de esa comida, pero les sirve para mantener la vida. Con esto en mente, leamos algunos artículos que nos iluminarán más.

***PARÁBOLAS***

~¿POR QUÉ PARÁBOLAS?~

Las parábolas son también ejemplos perfectos de cómo se revelan los diversos sentidos de la Escritura. Cada parábola tiene un **sentido literal** (transmitido por las palabras de la Escritura y descubierto por la exégesis), así como un **sentido espiritual**. El sentido espiritual de las parábolas se puede separar en su **sentido alegórico** (una comprensión más profunda de los acontecimientos al reconocer su significado en Cristo); su **sentido moral** (cómo deben conducirnos a actuar con justicia); y su **sentido anagógico** (en términos de su significado eterno, que nos conduce hacia nuestra verdadera patria). El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica añade a esta noción, explicando cómo, "**las parábolas son como espejos para el hombre: ¿será tierra dura o tierra buena para la palabra? ¿Qué uso ha hecho de los talentos que ha recibido?**" (CIC 546) Si Jesús utilizara definiciones directas al describir el Reino de Dios, daría la impresión de que una persona podría de alguna manera "controlarlo" y "aferrarse" a él. En cambio, el Reino de Dios debe meditarse en el corazón, como hizo María con todo lo que le sucedió en la vida. Hay que interiorizarlo y darle un significado personal y único, que conduzca al individuo hacia una relación más profunda con Cristo. Aunque tengamos la tentación de querer "la verdad", Jesús nos invita, a través de las parábolas, a abrazar el misterio de Dios y a reconocer nuestra incapacidad para comprender plenamente quién es Dios y cuál es su plan para nosotros.

***ANTICONCEPCIÓN***

~UNA ENSEÑANZA CONSTANTE~

En 1968, el Papa Pablo VI publicó su histórica carta encíclica *Humanae Vitae* (en latín, "Vida humana"), en la que volvía a insistir en la enseñanza constante de la Iglesia de que siempre es intrínsecamente erróneo utilizar la anticoncepción para impedir que nazcan nuevos seres humanos. La anticoncepción es "toda acción que, ya sea en previsión del acto conyugal [relación sexual], ya sea en su realización, ya sea en el desarrollo de sus consecuencias naturales, se propone, como fin o como medio, hacer imposible la procreación" (*Humanae Vitae* 14). Esto incluye la esterilización, los preservativos y otros métodos de barrera, los espermicidas, el coitus interruptus (método de abstinencia), la píldora y todos los demás métodos de este tipo.

### ~ALGO DE HISTORIA~

Pocos saben que, hasta 1930, *todas* las confesiones protestantes estaban de acuerdo con la doctrina de la Iglesia Católica, que condenaba la anticoncepción como pecado. En su Conferencia de Lambeth de 1930, la Iglesia Anglicana, influenciada por la creciente presión social, anunció que la anticoncepción se permitiría en *algunas* circunstancias. Pronto, la Iglesia Anglicana cedió por completo y permitió la anticoncepción de forma generalizada. Desde entonces, todas las demás confesiones protestantes han seguido su ejemplo. Hoy en día, sólo la Iglesia Católica proclama la posición cristiana histórica sobre la anticoncepción. La evidencia de que la anticoncepción está en conflicto con las leyes de Dios proviene de una variedad de fuentes que serán examinadas en este tratado.

### ~LEY NATURAL~

La anticoncepción está mal porque es una violación deliberada del diseño que Dios construyó en la raza humana, a menudo referido como "ley natural." El propósito de la ley natural del sexo es la procreación. El placer que proporciona el coito es una bendición adicional de Dios, destinada a ofrecer la posibilidad de una nueva vida al tiempo que fortalece el vínculo de intimidad, respeto y amor entre marido y mujer. El ambiente de amor que crea este vínculo es el marco perfecto para criar a los hijos. Pero el placer sexual dentro del matrimonio se vuelve antinatural, e incluso perjudicial para los cónyuges, cuando se utiliza de una manera que excluye deliberadamente el propósito básico del sexo, que es la procreación. No se debe abusar del don divino del acto sexual, junto con su placer e intimidad, frustrando deliberadamente su fin natural: la procreación.

### ~LA BIBLIA~

La Biblia menciona específicamente al menos una forma de anticoncepción y la condena. El coitus interruptus fue utilizado por Onán para evitar cumplir con su deber según la antigua ley judía de engendrar hijos para el hermano muerto de uno. "Judá dijo a Onán: 'Acércate a la mujer de tu hermano y cumple con ella el deber de cuñado, y cría descendencia para tu hermano'. Pero Onán sabía que la descendencia no sería suya; así que cuando entró a la mujer de su hermano derramó el semen en el suelo, para no dar descendencia a su hermano. Y lo que hizo desagradó a los ojos del Señor, y también lo mató" (Gn. 38:8-10). La pena bíblica por no dar hijos a la viuda de tu hermano era la humillación pública, no la muerte (Dt. 25:7-10). Pero Onán recibió la muerte como castigo por su crimen. Esto significa que su crimen fue más que simplemente no cumplir con el deber de un cuñado. Perdió la vida porque violó la ley natural, como siempre han entendido los comentaristas judíos y cristianos. Por esta razón, ciertas formas de anticoncepción se han conocido históricamente como "Onanismo", por el hombre que lo practicaba, al igual que la homosexualidad se ha conocido históricamente como "Sodomía", por los hombres de Sodoma, que practicaban ese vicio (véase Gn. 19)..."

### ~EL PAPA TENÍA RAZÓN~

El Papa Pablo VI predijo las graves consecuencias que se derivarían del uso generalizado y desenfrenado de la contracepción. Advirtió: "Los hombres rectos podrán convenirse mejor aún de las sólidas bases sobre las que se asienta la enseñanza de la Iglesia en este campo si se preocupan de reflexionar sobre las consecuencias de los métodos para limitar artificialmente el aumento de los hijos. Que consideren, en primer lugar, cuán ancho y fácil se abriría así el camino hacia la infidelidad conyugal y la rebaja general de la moralidad. No se necesita mucha experiencia para conocer la debilidad humana y comprender que los hombres -especialmente los jóvenes, tan vulnerables en este punto- tienen necesidad de estímulo para ser fieles a la ley moral, de modo que no se les debe ofrecer algún medio fácil de eludir su observancia. También es de temer que el hombre, acostumbándose al empleo de prácticas anticonceptivas, pierda finalmente el respeto a la mujer y, dejando de preocuparse por su equilibrio físico y psíquico, llegue a considerarla como un mero instrumento de goce egoísta, y no ya como su respetada y amada compañera" (HV 17).

### ~ESCUELA PARROQUIAL DE RELIGIÓN~

¡Inscriba a su hijo ahora para la Escuela Parroquial de Religión (PSR) 2023-2024 año escolar! La Escuela Parroquial de Religión se asocia con la Catedral de San Eugenio familias para llevar a los jóvenes de la parroquia a Cristo a través de la catequesis auténtica en la belleza, la bondad y la verdad de la fe católica. Ofrecemos: En curso de formación católica para estudiantes de 1er grado hasta la escuela secundaria, la preparación para los sacramentos del Bautismo, Confesión, Primera Comunión y Confirmación, la enseñanza dedicada por las Hermanas Marianas de Santa Rosa y catequistas laicos. **Dónde:** Escuela de San Eugenio **Cuando:** Martes de 3:45 - 5:00pm; Septiembre a Mayo. Recoger los formularios de inscripción en los vestíbulos, en la oficina parroquial, o inscribirse en línea en nuestro sitio web parroquial ([www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)). **\*El último día para inscribirse es el lunes, 31 de julio.** Póngase en contacto con Sr. Mary Emmanuel, MSSR con cualquier pregunta en 707-326-3408 o [srmaryemmanuel2@gmail.com](mailto:srmaryemmanuel2@gmail.com)

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