



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©  
\* Knights of Malta \*

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## Chancellor's Update

### Synodality???

For our readers who do not get *The Fatima Crusader*, issue 131/Fall 2023, we urge you to do so.

Fr. James Mawdsley presents six or more errors that the members of the Synod are going to discuss for the next year with pope Francis' blessing. Some of the errors are Holy Orders for Women, Sexually Active Priests, Receiving in Mortal Sin, Usurp Hierarchy, and Attack the Holy Mass.

Then, Fr. Michael Rodriguez presents the devils' format of attacking the Church and the laity.

Fr. Linus Clovis gives a historical and theological presentation to the sexual question. The following is his partial review: "It would not be untrue to say that in recent times Pope Francis' "God of surprises" has severely shaken our faith, especially as regards the Sixth Commandment. "Thou shall not commit adultery." The impending Synod on Synodality, in particular, raises cause for concern as the emphasis is not only on dialogue about settled issues but is also a push for a doctrineless 'accompaniment' that opens the way for Catholic doctrine to be adapted to the spirit of the age.

#### The Evil of Divorce

Unity and perpetuity are the two most excellent properties of marriage, that great mystery, which signifies Christ's love for His Church (cf. Eph 5:21-33). Over the centuries, the Church has often had to defend the perpetuity of marriage from the bane of divorce. Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Arcanum Divinae* delineates the Church's censure of Protestant heresies touching divorce and separation, the Greeks' habitual dissolution of marriage, as well as marriages contracted with the understanding that they may be at some future time dissolved. Also mentioned are the courageous Pontiffs who, in defense of marriage's indissolubility, withstood powerful princes, such as Henry VIII and Napoleon Bonaparte.

Leo XIII warned of the many evils that would emerge from the toleration of divorce. Time has proved him right as what began as rare and exceptional soon became a virulent contagious disease, legalizing even so-called "no-fault" divorce. Divorce destroys the family, and ruins the lives of countless men, women, and children. Accepting divorce is the necessary precedent to contraception, which then leads to abortion, and to sodomy, transgenderism, child trafficking, bestiality and other horrors yet to come.

## The Evil of Contraception

All Christians were unanimously opposed to artificial means of birth control until August 1930. In that year, the Anglican's Lambeth Conference approved contraception for "those cases where there is such a clearly felt moral obligation to limit or avoid parenthood and where there is a morally sound reason for avoiding complete abstinence." To correct and refute this breach in Christian moral tradition, Pope Pius XI reiterated the Catholic Church's ancient teaching on the immorality of contraception in his December 1930 encyclical *Casti Connubii*. He wrote: "[A]ny use whatsoever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin."

Among the various Protestant denominations there was some initial criticism of the Anglican position but one by one they succumbed, departing from antiquity, universality, and consensus.

The next major breakthrough in the contraception revolution occurred in the 1960s with the advent of the birth control pill which, being a new technology demanded a response from the Church. This response came in July 1968 with Pope Paul VI's reiteration of the Church's perennial teaching in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Building on the declarations of his predecessors - Leo XIII, Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII - and particularly on the Second Vatican Council's *Gaudium et Spes*:##50-51, Paul VI declared: "In conformity with these landmarks in the human and Christian vision of marriage, we must once again declare that the direct interruption of the general generative process already begun and, above all, directly willed and procured abortion, even if for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as licit means of regulating birth. Equally to be excluded, as the teaching authority of the Church has frequently declared, is direct sterilization, whether perpetual or temporary, whether of the man or of the woman. Similarly excluded is 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."

For now, Pope Francis is playing his Jesuit game. For the pass 40 + years we have been the guest of Church meetings and seminars with the results already written and printed before the meetings were held. Pope Francis has just done it again. On November 21, 2023, Vatican City reported by Jonathan Leidi the following: "Pope Francis has expressed deep reservations about the direction of Catholic Church in Germany, warning that concrete steps currently being taken "threaten" to undermine unity with the universal Church. The pope made his criticisms in a letter to four German Catholic laywomen that was published in the German newspaper *Welt* on November 21." What is the purpose of another year of listening? To cause more confusion and have the people prepare for more rejection and rebellion as happened after *Humanae Vitae*?

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