

Holy Father Speaks to Roman Curia 22-12-07; Can not be silent re: de facto couples (unmarried), Couples who choose not to have children, and homosexuals destroy themselves.

The Holy Father's Christmas '06 address to the Roman Curia included some reflections on his visit to Valencia Spain this past year and his concerns regarding family and marriage.

The pope lamented low birth rates in Europe, saying couples no longer seem to want children. This fact, he said, "penetrated my soul." "The modern spirit has lost its bearings, and this lack of bearings prevents us from being indicators of the right way to others. Indeed, the problem goes even deeper. Contemporary man is insecure about the future, 'and questions to send someone into this uncertain future, in short questions if it is good to be a person.'" "This deep lack of self assurance - plus the wish to have one's whole life for oneself - is perhaps the deepest reason why the risk of having children appears to many to be almost unsustainable." The Holy Father continued to comment that even in a time of historical crisis we need to have a meaning of life that goes beyond merely the begetting of biological life and have a certainty in the hope that is stronger than the clouds that obscure the future. "Unless we learn anew the foundations of life - unless we discover in a new way the certainty of faith - it will be less and less possible for us to entrust to others the gift of life and the task of an unknown future."

"Connected with this is also the problem of definitive decisions: can man bind himself for ever? Can he say "yes" for his whole life? Yes, he can. He was created for this. In this very way human freedom is brought about and thus the sacred context of marriage is also created and enlarged, becoming a family and building the future." "At this point, I cannot be silent about my concern about the legislation for de facto couples (legal co-habitation). Many of these couples have chosen this way because - at least for the time being - they do not feel able to accept the legally ordered and binding coexistence of marriage. Thus, they prefer to remain in the simple de facto state. When new forms of legislation are created which relativize marriage, the renouncement of the definitive bond obtains, as it were, also a juridical seal." This then makes the nucleus of society, the family, even more unstable promoting instability in society.

"Then there is in addition, for the other type of couple, the relativization of the difference between sexes. The union of a man and a woman is being put on par with the pairing of two people of the same sex, and tacitly confirms those fallacious theories that remove from the human person all the importance of masculinity and femininity, as though it were a question of the purely biological factor. Such theories hold that man - that is, his intellect and his desire - would decide autonomously what he is or what he is not. In this, corporeity (the body) is scorned, with the consequence that the human being, in seeking to be emancipated from his body - from the "biological sphere" - ends by destroying himself. If we tell ourselves that the Church ought not to interfere in such matters, we cannot but answer: are we not concerned with the human being? Do not believers, by virtue of the great culture of their faith, have the right to make a

pronouncement on all this? Is it not their – our – duty to raise our voices to defend the human being, that creature who, precisely in the inseparable unity of body and spirit, is the image of God? The Visit to Valencia became for me a quest for the meaning of the human being.”

And so, in summary I believe what Our Lady is calling us to, in asking us to return to “the prayer” – prayer of the heart, prayer of the rosary and especially the family rosary, will help us all grow in faith and trust in God’s love and His plan for us, to find our “bearings” as Pope Benedict calls it, then we can turn to Him and follow Him and find the only peace and contentment that can be found in this life.