

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I will link two discussions in my notes this week, both of which are in the news, at least in Catholic circles.

The Church is marking the 50th anniversary of the important encyclical letter of Pope Paul VI on Human Life - **Humanae Vitae**. In a tumultuous time in the Church and in the whole world, Pope Paul reiterated and clarified the Church's teaching that the unitive and procreative aspects of marriage and married love must always be respected and lived together. In other words, God intends for a man and a woman to be intimately united in marriage and marriage is meant to be life-giving. Sexual union is to be the highest expression of love between husband and wife and it is reserved for marriage. Even within marriage, God's plan for procreation, or bringing about new life, requires respecting nature and the human body. Husband and wife should never use artificial means to make conception of children impossible. The natural method of avoiding conception (Natural Family Planning) respects God's creative plan. The encyclical was greatly criticized and ignored by many, but the predictions of Pope Paul about the dangers of separating sexual relations from marriage and of separating the unitive and procreative aspects of sexual relations have basically all come true. The Pope foresaw a move toward abortion as the greatest danger.

Fast forward to 2018, and Cardinal Dolan, on behalf of the U.S. bishops, is calling on all people of good will, not only Catholics, to participate in prayer and education as our nation appoints a new Supreme Court Justice. Not for political reasons but for justice and moral reasons, we should pray for a fair process and fair justice to be appointed.

Each Friday from August 3 until September 28, Cardinal Dolan invites all Americans of good will to join in prayer that this change in the U.S. Supreme Court will move our nation closer to the day when every human being is protected in law and welcomed in life.

We are all invited to fast on these Fridays and pray for those intentions with at least an Our Father, A Hail Mary and a Glory Be.

We always pray for a greater respect of every human person, born and unborn.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.