



# SAINT ROSE *of* LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear engaged couples, peace.

*"The sacrament of marriage is the specific source and original means of sanctification for Christian married couples and families. It takes up again and makes specific the sanctifying grace of Baptism. By virtue of the mystery of the death and Resurrection of Christ, of which the spouses are made part in a new way by marriage, conjugal love is purified and made holy:*

*"This love the Lord has judged worthy of special gifts, healing, perfecting and exalting gifts of grace and of charity." (Familiaris Consortio, 56)*

It is with great joy that we welcome both of you to this process of marriage prep, which will lead you to grow together in the understanding of your vocation to Holy Matrimony. In fact, with the help of your facilitator, you will journey towards the Sacrament, which will bring you to live your human and Christian vocation as a person and a couple, called by God to cooperate with His work for the salvation of the world. Through your Christian marriage, you will be able to a visible sign and witness of Christ's love for His Church. Through your free yes, your fidelity, your permanence, and your openness to life, you will proclaim to the world that Marriage is a vocation to holiness. This serves to form our daily habits and return humanity to the original plan of God for man and woman, created in His image and likeness.

As you embark on this journey together, in the church and with the church, keep your eyes fixed on Christ, the bridegroom of the Church. Pray and study together to help each other to strengthen your faith, your commitment to the Church, and your commitment to each other.

We have in Joseph and Mary, the Holy Spouses of Nazareth, the perfect model of holy spouses and parents. Their love for God and each other was the force behind all their actions in protecting the infant Jesus. May their intercession accompany you now and throughout your married life.

We also will keep you in our prayers.

God bless,

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**Rev. Fr. Christiano Nunes da Silva**

Pastor/Párroco

## Wedding Procedures and Policy

1. Couples who wish to be married at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church should contact the parish office no less than 6 months before the intended wedding date
2. **Registered Parishioners:** Parishioner is defined as active, contributing members to the life of this parish through the gifts of time, talent and treasure. They need to make an appointment with a priest or deacon to discuss marriage preparation and scheduling. ***\*\*There is no fee for usage of the church for Registered Parishioners\*\****
3. **Non-Registered Parishioners:** Includes individuals who are not formal registered parishioners, or individuals who do not reside in the area of Murfreesboro, but wish to have their wedding take place here. These individuals also include those not registered but with family connections to the parish. ***\*\*There is a \$750 fee for usage of the Church for non-parishioners \*\****
4. Sunday weddings are not permitted in the Diocese of Nashville
5. Clergy assisting at your wedding will conduct the wedding rehearsal. Visiting clergy should familiarize themselves with the space and policies of the parish. Due to tight schedules, it is important that rehearsals (and Weddings) start on time with all members of the wedding party present.
6. If you have a wedding planner, please take note that Saint Rose of Lima staff and clergy will coordinate all liturgical preparation, rehearsal, and celebration of the liturgy. Saint Rose of Lima Wedding ministry is available in coordination of the ceremony. They will be contacted once the wedding preparation begins.
7. A nuptial mass requires minimum of 2 altar servers. The couple may choose to use trained family members or friends. If servers are coordinated by the parish, there is a customary stipend for each, payable to the church at least one week prior to the wedding
8. Musicians are arranged by Saint Rose of Lima (Organist/Cantor) will be provided. Please contact the music director to start this process. Requests for specific cantors or additional musicians should be made, and approved by Music Director as soon as possible. Music selections must be spiritual in nature. Music is an extra cost determined by Music Director and your wedding needs.
9. The moving of any church furnishings (i.e. altar, chairs or ambo) is prohibited
10. For safety concerns: Rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals, balloons, glitter etc., are not allowed in Saint Rose of Lima campus. Due to the possibility of staining the floor, flower girls may hold flowers but not drop petals. The use of an aisle runner is not permitted due to the danger of slipping.
11. The 'Unity Candle' is not part of the Roman Catholic Wedding Rite. Saint Rose of Lima does not own a 'Unity Candle' and its use is discouraged. Symbols of unity are already in the rite of marriage (i.e. the exchange of vows and rings). Suggestion is to use the 'Unity candle' at the beginning of the reception.
12. Saint Rose of Lima has separate Bride and Groom's room available. These will be scheduled out for 2 hours prior the wedding and 2 hour after the conclusion of the ceremony. After the wedding, it is the responsibility of the family to assure that all debris is collected from the bridal dressing rooms.

# MARRIAGE PREPARATION

## GOALS AND PURPOSE:

To prepare couples to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Preparation is required in order to receive the Sacrament of Marriage. Meetings with the Priest/Deacon or lay team help the engaged couple gain a greater awareness of their duties as spouses in Holy Matrimony.

We want your wedding to be as beautiful and memorable as possible. ***Wedding arrangements must be made at least (6) months prior to the wedding.*** Please contact the Parish office at (615) 893-1843 to make an appointment with one of our priests or deacons.

## REQUIREMENTS:

- Register parishioners of Saint Rose of Lima Parish
  - Parishioners is defined as active, contributing members to the life of this parish for over one year through the gifts of time, talent and treasure
    - \*\*Exceptions to this requirement are discussed on a case by case basis\*\**
- Pre-nuptial investigation with a priest or deacon
- Baptismal certificate w/ *ALL* other sacraments notated on the back
  - No more than (6) months from the scheduled wedding date
- Other documentation *\*as needed\**
- Marriage Retreat
  - Three to Get Married Retreat For Engaged Couples– Diocese of Nashville
    - For more information, please go to <https://stmarysdowntown.org/three-to-get-married-retreat>
  - Diocese of Nashville Engaged Couples Retreat
    - For more information, please go to <https://dioceseofnashville.com/getting-married/>

**\*\*We highly recommend the Three to Get Married Retreat\*\***

- Formed.org series on the Sacrament of Marriage called “Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage”
  - To gain access to all of FORMED’s content, follow these steps
    - Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>
    - Enter our parish’s zip code- 37130
    - Enter your name and your email address
  - Once you are logged into the website:
    - Click under the programs tab “The Sacraments”
    - Click on Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage

### **Options for Marriage Prep**

1. Diocese of Nashville Day Retreat & “Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage”
2. Three to Get Married Retreat

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** *A meeting with a priest/Deacon will need to be on the schedule no matter which option of prep you decide\*\**

### **What to expect at your initial meeting with a Priest/Deacon?**

Expect to be interviewed by your Priest/Deacon. This Pre-Nuptial Interview must take place before any Marriage Prep or wedding can even be scheduled at the church. If you can: Please bring any documentation you have that can help the priest understand your situation.

*\*\*New Copies of your Sacrament Documentation (Catholic Party) will need to be requested no earlier than 6 months before your scheduled wedding date\*\**

### **What to expect at your final meeting with a Priest/Deacon?**

Expect to go over any loose ends regarding documentation for the both of you. You will need to discuss the Liturgy for your Wedding Ceremony/Mass. Please also discuss among each other whether you would like just the Rite of Matrimony, or want it within a Mass.

## WEDDING SCHEDULING:

**POLICY-** Weddings *CANNOT* be Schedule (or “penciled in”) before the pre-nuptial investigation has taken place to determine that the couple both intend and free to enter into the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Once the investigation takes place, a date for the ceremony can be discussed, and set accordingly to the following procedure-

***\*\*If possible, it is best to Schedule your wedding with the Church BEFORE scheduling the venue for your reception\*\****

- Weddings can take place on any day and at any time that the church and personnel are available
  - ***EXCLUDES*** the days of Advent, Lent, Holy Week and Sundays
  - ***Saturday Weddings are scheduled at 2PM*** (*Dates other than Saturdays need to be cleared by the Pastor*)
- Church will be available for 1 hour prior to the wedding and 30 minutes after the conclusion of the ceremony
- Clergy of Saint Rose of Lima Parish *will not* witness marriages anywhere other than in the sanctuary

# WEDDING GUIDELINES

## *Wedding Music*

- Music chosen for the wedding ceremony/Mass must be sacred in nature and should be appropriate for the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church
- CD's are not allowed
- Contact *Scott Currier* at [scurrier@saintrose.org](mailto:scurrier@saintrose.org) or *Sandy Arndt* at [sarndt@saintrose.org](mailto:sarndt@saintrose.org) to coordinate or regarding any music questions *\*Office will share the couples contact information to Music department\**

## *Dressing*

- We will supply a room for the Bride and her Bridesmaids to get dressed in. (Room #117)
- We will supply a room for the groom and his Groomsmen to get dressed in. (Room #203)

## *Keys*

- Please pick up key set on Friday at the Church office. The office is open 8:00 am to 12 noon *\*If St. Rose Wedding Ministry is involved they will have the keys\**
  - If you cannot come during these hours please call the office to make other arrangements
- Return the keys to the Church office locked dropbox (white box to the right of the office front door) immediately after the wedding

## *Photos*

- Due to time constraints, we recommend that you take as many pictures as possible before the ceremony
- We do not allow pictures at the altar or flash photography that will disrupt the ceremony

## *Time/Wedding Coordination*

- Friday Weddings do not have the same time constraints as Saturday Weddings
- Saturday Weddings are scheduled at 2PM
- Other wedding days/times are consulted with the Priest/Deacon assisting and Church office Schedule
- Every wedding is allowed 1 hour before the wedding (decorate, set up etc.); A half hour after conclusion of ceremony (i.e. to clean, pictures etc.)
  - Saturday Wedding parties **MUST** be out of the church before 4PM
- St. Rose of Lima Wedding Ministry
  - Here to help coordinate on the wedding day
- If a wedding planner is involved, please have them get in contact with the Parish office

### *Decorations*

- Any flowers or plants placed on the wood floors must have trays under them to protect the floors
- No real or artificial flower petals should be dropped on the floor; No aisle runners as these are tripping hazards
- Pew decorations are fine just be careful not to scratch the wood
- All candles must be dripless
- Do not use rice or birdseed. It is a slipping hazard and difficult to clean up
- We suggest that less is more when it comes to church decorations

### *Clean up*

- A designated person should be assigned to clean up. Saint Rose of Lima is *not* responsible for anything left on the premises
- Remove all flowers and plants (Unless stated prior to office you are donating flowers to the Church for weekend Masses; Please notify that in advance)
- Remove all decorations, programs etc. (The Church should be free of any clutter)
- Saturday Weddings: the church must be ready and clear before 4:00 PM

# Wedding Checklist

Below is a list of some of the many things you will need to do before your wedding.

## **6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE YOUR WEDDING**

- Arrange for an interview with a priest or deacon at Saint Rose of Lima
- Get baptismal/sacrament records for the bride and/or groom
- Set a wedding date with the celebrant and church
- Confirm where you will do your marriage preparation

## **4 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE YOUR WEDDING**

- If you plan to have a visiting priest, please confirm with Saint Rose of Lima Parish
  - If from outside the Diocese of Nashville, please have them send a letter of suitability to the Parish Office at least 2 weeks prior to the wedding

## **3 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE YOUR WEDDING**

- Meet with the Music Director to discuss options for the wedding liturgy/Music
- Review and select scriptures, prayers and music for the service

## **2 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE YOUR WEDDING**

- Finalize the details of the wedding liturgy
- Be sure all documentation is completed and sent to Saint Rose of Lima
- Ask appropriate people to be liturgical ministers – readers, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, etc.
- Call the florist to order floral arrangements for the church

## **1 MONTH OR MORE BEFORE YOUR WEDDING**

- Get the program prepared, reviewed and printed (if you plan to have one; church will not provide wedding mass program)
- Discuss details with photographers and videographers

## **1 WEEK BEFORE YOUR WEDDING**

- Remind the wedding party, family and others to be on time for the rehearsal & Ceremony

## **WEEK OF YOUR WEDDING**

- Pick up key sets from the Church office

## **BRING TO THE WEDDING**

- The rings
- State Marriage License

*Any questions or concerns, please contact the Parish office at (615) 893-1843*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **WHY DOES THE CHURCH HAVE SO MANY RULES ABOUT MARRIAGE?**

The church takes marriage seriously because it is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman and God. The church wants to make sure that each person involved is properly prepared for marriage freely, without reservation and full understanding of what is involved. The marriage preparation process is regulated by Canon Law, rules of the Diocese, liturgical guidelines and pastoral requirements of individual parishes. The Catholic Church is concerned about your well-being and desires a great marriage for you.

### **WHY DOES A CATHOLIC WEDDING HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN A CHURCH?**

As Catholics, we believe marriage to be a Sacrament not just a family or social event. Therefore, all sacraments are to be celebrated within a sacred place. Only the Bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place (See Question #3)

### **IF A CATHOLIC WISHES TO MARRY IN A PLACE OUTSIDE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, HOW CAN HE OR SHE BE SURE THAT THE MARRIAGE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS VALID?**

Any Catholic marriage must take place inside a Catholic Church. Exceptions to this ruling is granted through special permissions by the Bishop. The venue must resemble a chapel/Church and embody Christian values. Please discuss this with your Priest/Deacon in your Pre-Cana meetings for the appropriate steps.

### **DO I (WE) HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BEFORE WE GET MARRIED?**

Confirmation prior to your wedding is strongly encouraged. Confirmation completes and strengthens the graces that were given to you at your Baptism. The spiritual gifts you receive at Confirmation can only strengthen your future marriage.

### **WHAT IF I AM NOT CATHOLIC, BUT WISH TO BE SO?**

It is required of the non-Catholic party wishing to become Catholic attend OCIA before their marriage takes place. Again receiving all of the sacraments of Initiation (i.e. Baptism, Communion) strengthen the graces and spiritual gifts thus strengthening your future marriage. As the non-Catholic party, you can be married in the church to the catholic party. However, if you wish to be Catholic on your wedding day, starting the OCIA process is required.

### **WHAT IS A NUPTIAL MASS AND WHEN CAN A COUPLE HAVE ONE?**

A Nuptial Mass is a Mass that includes the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Nuptial Masses cannot take place during Lent, as this is a penitential season. Any other time can be discuss with the Pastor.

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GET MARRIED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

This depends on each parish. At Saint Rose of Lima, usage of the church for a Sacrament is not charged a fee for parishioners. This is with the exception of weddings since there is a fee for the music (Organist/Cantor). It is customary to donate to the parish you are getting married. If you

are renting out one of our facilities for the reception, there is a cost to do so. Please contact the Church office for that cost.

### **WHY DOES THE CHURCH REQUIRE ENGAGED COUPLES TO PARTICIPATE IN A MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM?**

Preparation for Marriage provides couples opportunity to improve a better understanding of Christian Marriage. This time evaluates and deepens their readiness for such a commitment such as marriage.

### **WHAT KINDS OF MARRIAGE PREP PROGRAMS DOES THE CHURCH OFFER?**

Here are Saint Rose of Lima we offer three options:

1. Three to Get Married Weekend Retreat
2. Diocese of Nashville Day Retreat with “Beloved...” w/ “Beloved..” Formed.org program along with a priest or deacon

Although we offer an option for marriage prep, the Three to get Married Weekend Retreat and “Beloved.” video series are both highly and strongly recommend to complete before you get married.

### **WHAT IF WE ARE GETTING MARRIED OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE?**

If you are getting married outside of the Diocese of Nashville, you should discuss this with both priests (the one assisting your ceremony and the one conducting Marriage Prep). This is so you fulfill both parish requirements for Marriage preparation. The priest assisting with your ceremony outside the diocese may suggest you to do Marriage prep work with a local priest or deacon. The church you are doing prep in is responsible for collecting necessary documents and providing that to the Church of your ceremony prior to the wedding date.

### **WHAT IS THE “PRE-NUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE”?**

Helps the Priest/Deacon guide that first conversation with you on the Sacrament of Marriage and the Marriage preparation process. He will ask several background questions to aid their understanding of the nature of your relationship and potential marriage. Thus, making sure you are free to marry.

### **WHAT DOCUMENTS DO WE NEED TO GIVE TO THE PRIEST/DEACON?**

If you are a Catholic, you will need the following documents-

1. Certificate of Baptism, dated 6 months before your wedding date
2. Evidence of your First Holy Communion and Confirmation (Usually notated on the back of a Baptism Certificate)
3. If Saint Rose of Lima is not your home parish, permission from your home parish is needed for the Sacrament to take place elsewhere. Call your home parishes office to request this permission letter

If you are a non-Catholic Christian, you will need to have some evidence that you were baptized

1. Proof of Baptism

**DO WE NEED TO GET A MARRIAGE LICENSE?**

Yes, by the State of Tennessee one is not lawfully married unless a Marriage License is issued. It must be obtained from the county to which you will be married in. This must be signed on the wedding day by the Priest or Deacon who will be assisting the sacrament. For more information, please visit the County Page of your respected wedding (i.e. Murfreesboro is Rutherford County).

# NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the general title for the scientific, natural and moral methods of family planning that can help married couples either achieve or postpone pregnancies. NFP methods are based on the observation of the naturally occurring signs and symptoms of the fertile and infertile phases of a woman's menstrual cycle. No drugs, devices, or surgical procedures are used to avoid pregnancy.

The Catholic Church teaches that marital intercourse is a sign and symbol of committed love and is most fully human only when it is open to the gift of life. Each time a couple makes love they are reenacting their marriage vows as they give themselves freely, faithfully, fruitfully, and totally to one another.

This belief needs to be coupled with the Church's assertion that as stewards of God's creation, we are responsible to care for the children we help to create. Natural Family Planning respects the life giving (procreative) and love giving (unitive) aspects of intercourse by not separating the two, the way that contraception does. Contraception not only blocks conception, it also blocks husband and wife from completely bonding. Natural methods, while avoiding pregnancy by abstinence during the fertile time, are still open to the transmission of life.

## How does NFP work?

NFP instruction helps married couples learn how to observe, interpret and chart the wife's signs of fertility. This enables husband and wife to identify the fertile and infertile phases of the wife's menstrual cycle.

When husband and wife wish to attempt pregnancy, they will understand that intercourse during the fertile phase of the wife's menstrual cycle will likely result in pregnancy. When wishing to postpone a pregnancy, husband and wife would abstain from sexual intercourse and any genital contact during the fertile time. No artificial methods are used during the fertile time.

NFP is unique among methods of family planning because it enables its users to work with the body rather than against it. Fertility is viewed as a gift and a reality to live, not a problem to be solved. The methods of Natural Family Planning respect God's design for married love! NFP represents a unique approach to responsible parenthood because it

- calls for shared responsibility by husband and wife
- is based on scientific research about the signs of fertility
- treats each menstrual cycle as unique
- teaches husband and wife to daily observe the signs of fertility
- has no harmful side effects
- maximizes the possibility of achieving pregnancy when intercourse takes place during the fertile phase of the wife's menstrual cycle
- is effective for postponing pregnancy when intercourse takes place during the infertile phase of the wife's menstrual cycle respects the unitive and procreative nature of conjugal love

## Theology of NFP

The teachings of the Catholic Church about how God created men and women in His image and the meaning of the Divine gifts of human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible

parenthood contribute to a theology of NFP. This theology is helpful to reflect upon in order to arrive at a deeper appreciation of God's will for married love. The U.S. bishops emphasize the importance of this theological reflection when they wrote in their document, *Married Love and the Gift of Life* that . . .

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God's gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God's creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

—(USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*, 2006)

In *Humanae Vitae*, the Church affirms that efforts at birth regulation, “must be done with respect for the order established by God” and that “each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life.” In his 1994 Letter to Families, Pope John Paul II wrote, “in the conjugal act, husband and wife are called to confirm in a responsible way the mutual gift of self, which they have made to each other in the marriage covenant.”

## **What are the benefits of using NFP?**

In NFP both husband and wife are taught to understand and live God's design for married love—this will give them countless blessings! NFP methods promote a holistic approach to family planning, which both respects procreation and has the potential to deepen the intimacy of husband and wife.

NFP methods support reproductive health. They are good for the body. The World Health Organization in 1999 classified oral contraceptives as a Class 1 carcinogen, “known carcinogen to humans.” The natural methods have none of the harmful side effects caused by chemical contraceptives (e.g., pill, injection, etc.). For the woman, NFP charting can even assist in the diagnosis of underlying medical problems. And, if a couple find they are having trouble conceiving, NFP information can help them pinpoint the most fertile time of the wife's cycle. NFP methods can be marriage strengthening. NFP relies on couple communication and behavior change. NFP methods require husband and wife to cooperate with each other in the most intimate area of their lives. During times of periodic sexual abstinence, husband and wife live a renewed courtship as they discover non-sexual ways to express their love for each other. On a practical level, husbands are encouraged to “tune into” their wives' cycles, and both spouses are encouraged to speak openly and frankly about their sexual desires, hopes for number of children, and prayerful discernment of God's will for their marriage.

When living the NFP lifestyle, husband and wife learn that they have a shared responsibility for safeguarding God's gifts of human sexuality, marriage and family. They also grow in their understanding of God's will for their family size. NFP has the potential to make good marriages great!

NFP is good for marriage and honors God's design for married love!

- Supports reproductive health
- Has no harmful side effects

- Is environmentally friendly
- Is inexpensive
- Cooperates with a couple's combined fertility
- Is useful to either achieve or avoid pregnancy
- Can be used throughout the reproductive life cycle
- Requires shared responsibility and cooperation by husband and wife
- Fosters mutual communication between husband and wife
- Encourages respect for and acceptance of the total person
- Promotes marital chastity
- Values the child

## Methods of NFP

Each NFP method is focused on one or more signs of female fertility. They can be grouped into three categories

1. **Cervical Mucus Methods (CMM)**<sup>[1][2]</sup> The methods that observe cervical mucus are commonly called the "Ovulation Method" or "OM." In NFP education, a woman learns how to identify the normal, healthy, cervical mucus, which indicates the days that sexual intercourse is most likely to result in pregnancy. A number of NFP providers teach a variety of approaches to the observation and charting of cervical mucus (e.g., [Billings Ovulation Method Association—USA](#), [Creighton Model FertilityCare™ Centers](#), [Family of the Americas](#), etc.).
2. **Sympto-Thermal Methods (STM)** The methods that observe several signs of fertility and cross-check two or more of the signs to pinpoint ovulation are commonly called the "Sympto-Thermal Method" or "STM." STM typically combines charting of the Basal Body Temperature (BBT) and cervical mucus with other optional indicators, such as changes in the cervix and secondary fertility signs. A number of NFP providers teach a variety of approaches to the observation and charting of these signs (e.g., [Couple to Couple League](#), [Northwest Family Services](#), various diocesan programs, etc.).
3. **Sympto-Hormonal Method (SHM)**<sup>[1][2]</sup> The method that observes several signs of fertility and adds the use of an ovulation predictor kit (OPK) or fertility monitor is called the "Sympto-Hormonal Method" or "SHM." Similar to the STM, this approach adds the self-detection of reproductive hormones in the urine with the assistance of an OPK or fertility monitor. Various diocesan NFP programs make use of the SHM as well as [Marquette University's Institute for NFP \(Marquette Model\)](#).

## More information

Here are more resources you can use to learn more about natural family planning.

Humanae Vitae

*Pope Paul VI* Encyclical letter on the regulation of birth

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html)

[The American Press and Birth Control: Preparing the Ground for Dissent](#)

*James Hitchcock* Professor James Hitchcock outlines the historical backdrop of the American media's frenzy over birth control in the 1960s and its implications on Catholic laity.

[Contraception, Infallibility, and the Ordinary Magisterium](#)

*Russell Shaw* Shaw uses this article to review an article previously published by Dr. Germain Grisez and Rev. John C. Ford, S.J. Shaw seeks to propose a summary on the topic of *Humanae vitae* and whether Pope Paul VI spoke infallibly when teaching that contraception is immoral.

[Pope John Paul II and Humanae Vitae](#)

*Janet E. Smith* Pope John Paul II reflects on *Humanae vitae* and speaks to the Church about such things as the "gift of sexuality," and the body as an "expression of the person." In his reflection we find connections between love and sex. Professor Smith argues that Natural Family Planning is a program that draws upon these similar connections.