

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE COMMUNIQUE # 3, AUGUST 14, 2018
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Greetings and God's Blessing to all my sisters in the League. It has been a year of many challenges, especially with regard to right of life/end of life issues in our society. Our basic belief, the sanctity of and right to life from birth to natural death continues to be attacked, and we need to renew our efforts to protect this precious gift.

Please renew your efforts to make your beliefs known. One way to inform yourselves and to help other people in your parishes and communities become/ stay informed is with resources available from the "Catholic Organization for Life and Family" (COLF). On its website you will discover a wealth of information—pamphlets such as "The Unborn Child- a reflection on Abortion", "Living, Suffering and Dying—What for?", "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide" and many more. These pamphlets are available for a very low cost. Simply type colf.ca into your computer and click on "Publications".

An article in the July, 2018 Columbia is the source for the following report:

THE INTEGRITY OF HUMAN LOVE (Why Marriage, Sex and Babies Belong Together)

The Church, as a loving Mother, seeks to articulate and preserve the meaning of marriage. Contrary to popular belief, the Catholic Church is not opposed to sex. Rather, an examination of some of Blessed Paul VI's encyclical HUMANAE VITAE (on human life) key teachings—including the four characteristics of married love—reveals the Church's high regard for sex, viewed in its proper context.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIED LOVE.

(Section 9 of Humanae Vitae)

1. Married love is fully human and involves free will. It unites husband and wife in both body and spirit. It is lived out in bodily form in the day-in and day-out lives they share together. This love is uniquely expressed and made possible in the bodily act of the marital embrace.
2. Married love is total. It is a unique kind of love that results in bodily and spiritual oneness and mutual belonging. Given to each other by God, husband and wife are called to share everything with the other and to put the other first. This oneness is made visible in the very flesh of their children.
3. The third characteristic- - faithfulness for life— If married love is spiritual, embodied and total, it cannot be partial or limited. If husband and wife belong mutually each to the other, they cannot bestow themselves to another. Married love implies the gift of one's whole life.
4. Finally, married love is fruitful. It is the very nature of married love to be directed toward children and the family. Without this ordination to bearing and raising children, the love of husband and wife risks closing in on itself.

For love to be genuine, it must also be whole. We cannot pick and choose among the parts or aspects of love and continue to call it love. Far from being a negative pronouncement on sexuality, the Church's teaching is her response to Christ's demand that love be protected and nurtured in its wholeness and integrity. This is also what makes the teaching so attractive.