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Children: Wanted and Unwanted!

*A Review of the Church's Teachings on
Contraception and Reproductive Therapy*

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Children, the Precious Gift of Marriage

amongst the blessings of marriage, the child holds the first place (Casti Connubi 11)

the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare. (Humane Vitae 9)

the very institution of marriage and conjugal love are ordained to the procreation and education of children, in whom they find their crowning. (Familiaris Consortio 14)

Children, the purpose and blessings of Marriage

*a high and noble purpose of marriage is
“bringing forth of children for the Church”*

(Arcanum Divinum 10)

*St Augustine: “the blessings of matrimony ...
offspring, conjugal faith and the sacrament”*

(Casti Cannubi 10)

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Society's Assault on Children

Oral Contraceptive Pill

Liberal Social Agenda

Welfare State and Demographic Shift

Spectre of Over-population

Prenatal Diagnosis

Saviour Siblings



Children Unwanted! 1

Contraception

the disagreeable burden of matrimony

separated sex from reproduction

appealed to contemporary notions of liberation

Welfare State & Demographics

children less an asset in urbanized society

welfare state provides for twilight years

child-raising means sacrifices

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Children Unwanted! 2

Spectre of overpopulation

excuse to maintain rich/poor divide

famine would still occur without over-population

Prenatal diagnosis

quality not quantity

seek and destroy the imperfect

Saviour siblings

child conceived to cure sibling of disease

a means to an end, not a life with own worth



Contraceptive Mentality 1

Condemned by Early Fathers

Augustine: ... procure a baneful sterility, ... they are not spouses at all ..., a mistress of the husband, ... the paramour of his wife.
(CC65)

Linked to abortion even then

Augustine: ... and if this fails the fetus conceived in the womb is ... smothered or evacuated, in the desire to destroy the offspring before it has life, or if it already lives in the womb, to kill it before it is born.
(CC65)

Contraceptive Mentality 2

contraceptive mentality...strengthen this temptation [of abortion] when an unwanted life is conceived (EV13)

contraception and abortion are ... fruits of the same tree (EV13)

imply a self-centred concept of freedom, which regards procreation as an obstacle to personal fulfilment (EV13)

Church Teachings against Contraception 1

St Augustine spoke against the cruel lust which seeks a baneful sterility *De nuptiis et concupiscentia*
419AD

Pius XI condemned *frustrating the marriage act ...*
[a] *criminal abuse* (CC53)

Paul VI declared unlawful *any action ...*
specifically intended to prevent procreation (HV14)

Church Teachings against Contraception 2

John Paul II reaffirms *that love between husband and wife must be ... open to new life* (FC29)

He also condemned the contraceptive mentality and linked it with abortion (EV13)

He reminded us of *the close connection ... between ... contraception and ... abortion [including] contraceptives [which are] abortifacients* (EV13)

Responsible Parenthood

discerns biological laws (HV10)

*awareness of, and respect for, their proper
[biologic] functions (HV10)*

*man's reason and will must exert control
over ... [his] innate drives and emotions
(HV10)*

*accepts dialogue, reciprocal respect, shared
responsibility and self-control. (FC32)*

*bestows upon family life fruits of serenity and
peace (FC33)*



Children Wanted!

Facing Infertility

The Problem with Artificial Reproduction

Children in the Christian Family

Prenatal Diagnosis

Saviour Siblings

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Facing Infertility

*when procreation is not possible,
conjugal life does not ... lose its
value... sterility in fact can be for
spouses the occasion for other
important services to the life*

(Familiaris Consortio no. 14)

The Problem with Artificial Reproduction

*separate[s] procreation from the fully
human context of the conjugal act (EV14)*

*high rate of failure [exposing embryos]
to the risk of death (EV14)*

*"spare embryos" ... destroyed or used for
research (EV14)*

*reduces human life to the level of simple
"biological material" to be freely
disposed of (EV14)*

Children in the Christian Family

"fellow citizens with the saints, and the domestics of God" ...born and brought up for the worship and religion of the true God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. (AD10)

Pius XI reminded parents that children are *a talent committed to their charge by God, not only to be employed for their own advantage or for that of an earthly commonwealth, but to be restored to God with interest on the day of reckoning. (CC15)*

Prenatal Diagnosis

no moral objections if carried out in order to identify the medical treatment ...[for] the child in the womb (EV14)

all too often ... an opportunity for proposing and procuring ... eugenic abortion (EV14)



NO to “Seek and Destroy” 1

Society seems to accept life only under certain conditions and rejects it when it is affected by any limitation, handicap or illness. (EV14)

John Paul II reaffirm strongly that the intrinsic value and personal dignity of every human being do not change, no matter what the concrete circumstances of his or her life (Speech Of John Paul II To The International Congress on Life Sustaining Treatments And Vegetative State 20 March 2004, no.3)



NO to “Seek and Destroy” 2

A man, even if seriously ... disabled ... is and always will be a man, ...retain [his] human dignity in all its fullness. (Speech Of John Paul II To The International Congress on Life Sustaining Treatments And Vegetative State Saturday 20 March 2004, no.3)

the value of a man's life cannot be made subordinate to any judgement of its quality expressed by other men (ibid, no.6)

Clinical review

The parents' journey: continuing a pregnancy after a diagnosis of Patau's syndrome

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Louise Locoek senior qualitative researcher

Jane Crawford mother of Benjamin

Jon Crawford father of Benjamin

Patau's syndrome (trisomy 13) is a rare condition, associated with high mortality, a range of congenital abnormalities, and severe physical and cognitive impairment. Many affected pregnancies will miscarry, and most babies born with the condition will not survive more than a few days or weeks. Less than 10% of babies with the condition will survive their first year of life.¹

Parents who discover during pregnancy that their baby has a serious chromosomal condition such as Patau's syndrome suddenly find themselves on an unexpected journey away from their hopes for a



Saviour Siblings 1

British Medical Journal 7 May 2005

News

Law lords give the go ahead for creation of "saviour siblings"

Clare Dyer legal correspondent, *BMJ*

The United Kingdom's highest court last week gave the go ahead for the creation of "saviour siblings" to give umbilical cord, blood, or bone marrow to try to save the life of a brother or sister. Five judges in the House of Lords unanimously ruled that the law that set up the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Authority gives the authority the power to licence, alone or separately, both preimplantation genetic diagnosis and tissue typing on embryos used in treatment for in vitro fertilisation.

The ruling, upholding an appeal court judgment in April 2003, removes all doubt for Raj and Shahana Hashmi, who have been trying to produce a sibling

embryo of the right tissue type or the pregnancy ended in a miscarriage.

The case was taken to the House of Lords by Josephine Quintavalle and her campaigning group, Comment on Reproductive Ethics (CORE), who argued that the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Authority had no power to licence the creation of a baby to save the life of another.

The arguments hinged on the wording of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. Lawyers for Mrs Quintavalle, who had won her case in the high court before the judge's ruling was overturned by the appeal court (*BMJ* 2003;326:782), argued in the House of Lords that



Raj and Shahana Hashmi have been trying to produce a sibling with the same tissue type as their son Zain, aged six.

tion of an embryo's characteristics on social grounds, although it was ing to play dice with conception." He noted that parliament had

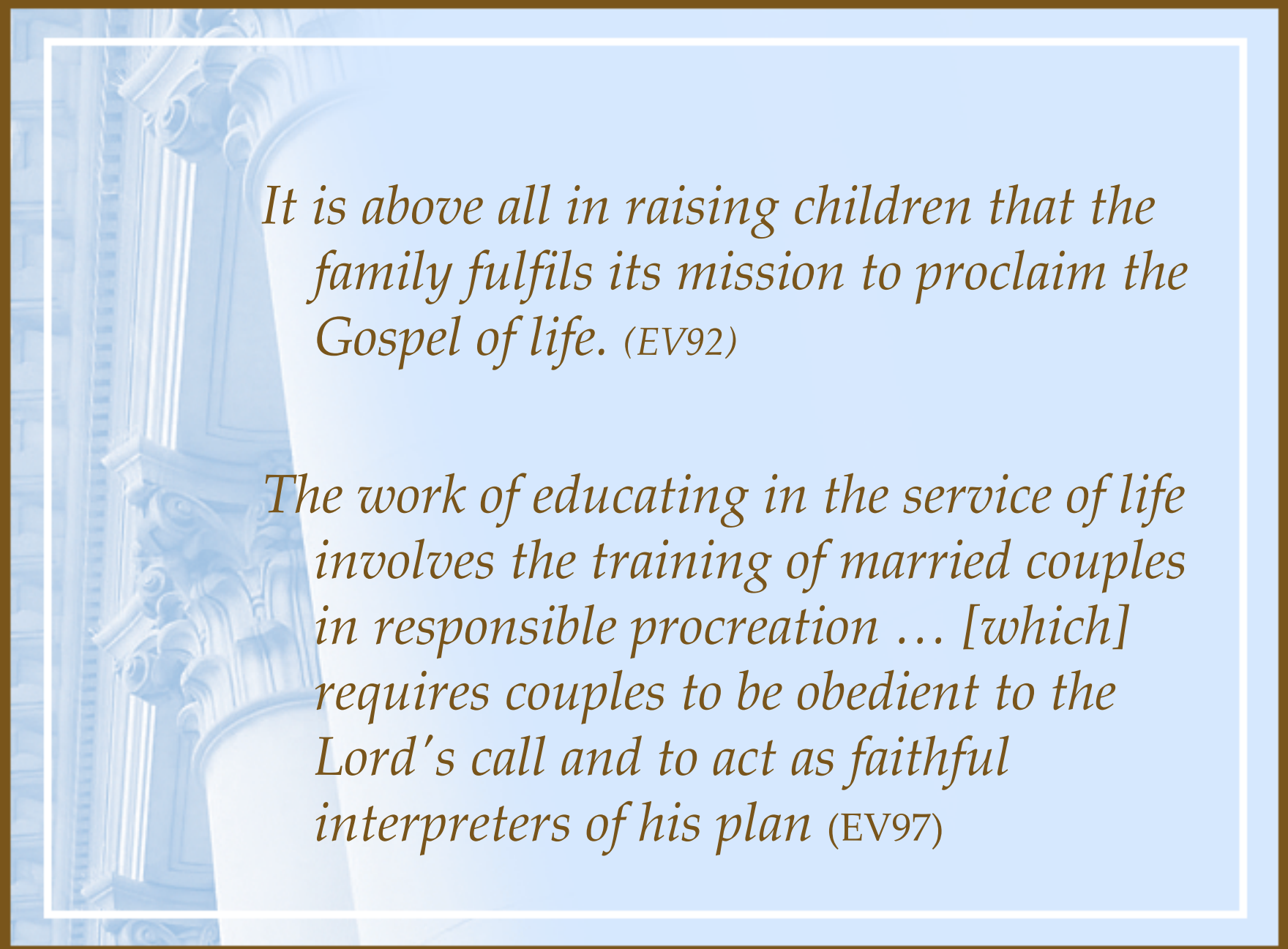
Saviour Siblings 2

used in artificial reproduction to mean to create another child as a transplant source for an older, sick sibling

requires selection of embryos on basis of transplant compatibility

devalues life of all children – means to an end, not life with own intrinsic worth

child as a source of transplant for others?



It is above all in raising children that the family fulfils its mission to proclaim the Gospel of life. (EV92)

The work of educating in the service of life involves the training of married couples in responsible procreation ... [which] requires couples to be obedient to the Lord's call and to act as faithful interpreters of his plan (EV97)