

The Traditional Catholic Family – Radio Maria Ireland

I'm John Lacken, this show was broadcast on Radio Maria Ireland, on Friday 29th July 2016 and I would like to begin as always with a prayer to Our Lady asking her for guidance and protection for all married couples.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer for Père Jacques Hamel

Before getting to today's subject matter I would like to pause again and say another prayer, this time a prayer for Père Jacques Hamel, the French, eighty five year old priest, who was murdered, having just said Mass, in the Church of St Therese, in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, France on Tuesday of this week. This is in Rouen, just over an hour and a half's walk from Place du Vieux Marché, where St Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake, on 30th May 1431. We must also pray for the perpetrators of this attack and for all who use and promote violent means to achieve their political, religious and other ideals and aims.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

May the soul of Père Jacques Hamel rest in peace. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

Beware the New World Order

As I said after the Nice atrocity we must avoid allowing ourselves, in situations like this, to be divided into camps, the camps which professor Thomas Stark highlighted in a recent talk.

“Our masters have created two camps in Western Society, that of the politically correct leftist gooders and that of the identitary “Western” “conservatives”. Both camps combat each other, not recognizing that both of them serve as mercenary troops of the New World Order, and which – entangled in their distractive battle – never get to perceive their real enemy in the real war. The real enemy is The Revolution and the real war is the war between Counter-revolution and Revolution which – in the end – is the war between Christ and the Antichrist.”

That was Professor Thomas Stark. We can become distracted when we see all the stuff that's going on around us.

St Paul to the Ephesians, tells us again,

“For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Powers and Principalities

We too are increasingly witnessing this battle against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. But we must be firm in our faith remembering Our Lord's words in chapter twenty four of St Matthew's Gospel.

“And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the sufferings.

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 24:6-13)

Persevere in the Faith

So, we must persevere in our faith in Jesus Christ, in His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. In order to persevere in the faith we must make sure that we have a deep knowledge of that faith and of what the Church really teaches. For already there are many false prophets who seek to distort those teachings in the name of a false charity and a false compassion which seeks to make life easy for us contrary to what our Lord tells us in chapter seven of St Matthew's Gospel.

Enter by the Narrow Gate

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

Our Lord continues

Beware of False Prophets

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:15-20)

Legio Sanctae Familiae

The Legion of the Holy Family, through this programme on Radio Maria Ireland, aims to teach the traditional Catholic faith about marriage and family life, and in doing so, there are times when I must warn parents about certain dangers which they will face. Those with young children in particular, are today faced with a very dangerous new development which sadly, has the backing and support of one of the pontifical councils.

Pontifical Council promotes false 'sex-education' – Endangers Children

The development is a new “sex-education” initiative aimed at Catholics, innocuously called 'The Meeting Place', and which is being promoted online by the Pontifical Council for the Family. Unfortunately the programme, which was developed by some married couples in Spain, does not uphold Catholic principles. The material uses suggestive and somewhat pornographic images and asks young people to discuss these images in a classroom setting.

This initiative ignores centuries of Church teaching about avoiding occasions of sin, and these materials put children into what are known as near occasions of sin by getting them to view and to discuss indecent images in settings where both boys and girls may be present.

“The Meeting Place”, which is the name of this new programme, also ignores the wise words of Pope Pius XI in his encyclical on the education of Christian Youth, *Divini Illius Magistri*, of the thirty first of December 1929. And I'd like to quote some relevant passages which all parents should become familiar with if they wish to protect their children from harmful education.

Divini Illius Magistri

“Another very grave danger is that naturalism which nowadays invades the field of education in that most delicate matter of purity of morals. Far too common is the error of those who with dangerous assurance and under an ugly term propagate a so-called sex-education, falsely imagining they can forearm youths against the dangers of sensuality by means purely natural, such as a foolhardy initiation and precautionary instruction for all indiscriminately, even in public; and, worse still, by exposing them at an early age to the occasions, in order to accustom them, so it is argued, and as it were to harden them against such dangers.” unquote.

Indecent Images presented to Children

“The Meeting Place”, promoted by the Pontifical Council for the family uses an image of a prostitute, of a semi naked couple, of an immodestly dressed young woman being embraced by a man, and other inappropriate images. The programme recommends that the young people watch certain films from the cinema in order to discuss the content of these films with regard to human sexuality and how it is treated in the films. However some of the films that are recommended contain immoral scenes of a sexually explicit nature. Viewing these films will expose these children and young people to occasions of sin and it will accustom them to these occasions, contrary to what Pope Pius XI warns against.

Pope Pius XI continues, speaking of these programmes,

Grievous Errors

“Such persons grievously err in refusing to recognize the inborn weakness of human nature, and the law of which the Apostle speaks, fighting against the law of the mind; and also in ignoring the experience of facts, from which it is clear that, particularly in young people, evil practices are the effect not so much of ignorance of intellect as of weakness of a will exposed to dangerous occasions, and unsupported by the means of grace.” unquote.

There is a very important point here which has been almost forgotten in our day and age. “evil practices, particularly in young people, are the effect not so much of ignorance of intellect, (in other words not a lack of education) as of weakness of a will exposed to dangerous occasions, and unsupported by the means of grace.”

Exposing Children to Occasions of Sin

This new 'sex-education' programme exposes children to dangerous occasions in a classroom setting which setting is not surrounded by the same means of grace whereby a parent gives proper instruction to their child in a private one-to one talk in the family home or another suitable place where their privacy is assured. I spent many years fighting unsuccessfully against the introduction of sex-education into Irish schools.

I was unsuccessful not because of the State, but because of the support given by many Catholics, of every rank, to the states immoral sex-education programme. That is why our family have been home schooling our children since 2005, I couldn't risk the corruption of my children and the destroying of their faith and I am very happy to discuss home schooling with anyone who is interested or with anyone who is concerned with the way our education system is going.

Parents have Primary Responsibility to Protect their Children

Now please don't get me wrong. I am not attacking the pontifical council or the bishops or anyone else because, just like the garden of Eden, when God came for His evening stroll in the garden, after Eve had taken of the fruit and given it to Adam, God questioned Adam first and not Eve. So too, in the matter of education of children, God will question us as the parents of these children. He will question us first when it comes to these children that He has entrusted to us.

And so as parents, we must take this responsibility very seriously. We must realise that it is primarily **our responsibility** to educate our children and that it is also **our responsibility** to ensure that the education our children receive is truly in conformity with Catholic teaching. We cannot blame others, for if others are at fault, then it is our duty to protect our children, and to keep them out of harm's way. Sometimes that requires a heroic effort. Sometimes we must protect our children from those who also have a duty to help educate them but who have become misguided by modern, so called progressive notions, which contradict the perennial wisdom of the Church. It is not easy to be a good Catholic parent nowadays because there are so few who understand Catholic teaching and who truly understand what is required of us.

Classroom 'sex-education' is a ravenous Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

This is why I quoted Matthew seven earlier because Christ warns us that false prophets will come dressed up as sheep who are inwardly ravenous wolves. Public and classroom based sex-education is one such false prophet, that comes like a sheep, meek and gentle and bleating about how good it will be for our children, whereas this type of public sex-education, as noted by Pope Pius XI, destroys children's innocence.

Our Lord tells us that we will know them by their fruits!

The Fruits of 'sex-education'

Great Britain was the first country in western Europe to introduce sex-education into their schools in the 1950s. They subsequently have the highest rate of unwanted teen pregnancy in the western world next to the USA where sex-education was introduced around the same time. The advocates of sex-education will tell you that there is no connection between teen pregnancy rates and classroom sex-education, and will actually advocate more of the same to combat this problem. The other disturbing connection is that that exists between sex-education and abortion, which currently stands at about 200,000 children killed in Britain every year and at about 1.4 million children killed in the united States every year through legal surgical abortions. This does not take into account the number of little lives lost through contraceptive and abortion pills.

High rates of unwanted teenage pregnancy and high rates of abortion are the fruits of classroom sex-education. By their fruits you shall know them.

Pope Pius XI, in his encyclical, then speaks to fathers giving us a warning, to be careful.

Fathers Beware!

“In this extremely delicate matter, if, all things considered, some private instruction is found necessary and opportune, from those who hold from God the commission to teach and who have the grace of state, every precaution must be taken. Such precautions are well known in traditional Christian education, and are adequately described by Antoniano cited above, when he says:

Such is our misery and inclination to sin, that often in the very things considered to be remedies against sin, we find occasions for and inducements to sin itself. Hence it is of the highest importance that a good father, while discussing with his son a matter so delicate, should be well on his guard and not descend to details, nor refer to the various ways in which this infernal hydra destroys with its poison so large a portion of the world; otherwise it may happen that instead of extinguishing this fire, he unwittingly stirs or kindles it in the simple and tender heart of the child. Speaking generally, during the period of childhood it suffices to employ those remedies which produce the double effect of opening the door to the virtue of purity and closing the door upon vice.”

Graphic Details Not Necessary

So, in matters of human sexuality, descending to details is not necessary when instructing children or answering their innocent questions in matters relating to the generation of life. The huge danger, and it is a huge danger, especially in young boys and young men, who are more easily led astray by the 'visual' in matters of this nature, is that they will be led towards a curiosity about these things which will end badly for them and will lead to a fall in the area of purity and innocence. And its very hard to regain lost innocence and lost purity.

These quotations that I have used are taken from Divini Illiustrius Magistri, on the Christian Education of Youth, numbers 65 to 67. I highly recommend that parents take, or even make, the time necessary to read and to study this encyclical letter which is of utmost importance to parents who have a duty before God to provide for and to supervise their children's education.

Misguided Catholics ignore Papal Teachings

I am always amazed at those who express an earnest desire to educate young children and adolescents in matters which do not concern them and for which they can have no use, they not being married. It is sadder still when Catholics, under a false notion of protecting children, advocate these self same programmes which have been condemned by previous popes, and have done so much harm to our young people. The best protection our young people can have is vigilant parents, who teach them how to live holy and virtuous lives, whilst striving to live such lives themselves.

Aim for the Narrow Gate

Yes we will fall, and yes we will fail, but we get up again and we carry on, and we learn from our mistakes, and try to do better the next time, and the next and the next. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” Let us together strive to be amongst the few who find the narrow gate and let us resist the temptation to conform to worldly thinking in this matter, regardless of who it is who recommends it. Our children's innocence and purity are way too precious a gift to be squandered on false notions of protecting them.

Pontifical Council for the Family Contradicts its own Guidelines

Another point to note about this programme, and that is, in supporting 'The Meeting Place', the Pontifical Council for the Family, contradicts its own previous guidelines that were issued under Cardinal Trujillo, a great friend to the traditional family, in the 1995 document 'The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality' and this is another document which all parents should make time to read.

No Erotic Material should be presented to Children

The document states, in section No 126. 3., “No material of an erotic nature should be presented to children or young people of any age, individually or in a group.

This principle of decency must safeguard the virtue of Christian chastity. Therefore in passing on sexual information in the context of education for love, the instruction must always be "positive and prudent" and "clear and delicate". These four words used by the Catholic Church exclude every form of unacceptable content in sexual education.”

So that's pretty straight forward. “No material of an erotic nature should be presented to children or young people of any age, individually or in a group.”

Struggling Parents Undermined by Pontifical Council

It is a constant struggle for Catholic parents to try to keep their young adults on the right path and, sad to say, programmes of sex-education such as 'The Meeting Place', which is available to young people on-line and has the support of a Pontifical Council, both endangers our young people and it undermines the role and the work of parents who want and who are trying their best to protect their children from false notions of human sexuality and from false methods of sex-education.

'The Meeting Place' presents material of an erotic nature to children and young people through its website. Now I have contacted the Pontifical Council myself to object to this programme, and I urge other parents to do likewise. Remember it is our duty as parents to make sure that nobody is permitted to present or to recommend erotic material to our children.

Please Complain – Make Your Parental Voice Heard

You can view this sex-education programme 'The Meeting Place' on-line through a link from the Pontifical Council for the Family's website. You can contact the Pontifical Council by e-mail pcf@family.va

You can also write to the president of the council outlining your concerns, and again, I would urge as many parents as possible to contact them. If we don't speak out as parents, we will lose our voice and our children will be the ones who will suffer the consequences.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia
Piazza di San Calisto, 16
00153 Rome
Vatican City

Now this week I had hoped to go back to looking at the problem whereby our young people don't seem to be that interested in getting married but I thought the sex-education topic too important and too recent to ignore.

Parents By-Passed

This programme is being presented to the young people at World Youth Day while they're over there and again, as a parent, I would be concerned, I have one young son over there, he's 21, but I would be concerned if I thought, as a parent, that my children had gone to World Youth Day and a sex-education programme was presented to them without my knowledge. I would be concerned about that. The Church has always upheld the rights of parents in this regard and that everything must be under our control and it is particularly worrying, when a Pontifical Council, seems to be sidestepping the parents. Very, very worrying. We have to be very, very vigilant.

Why are our Young People Delaying Marriage?

Hopefully next week we will look at some of the factors that discourage our young people from getting married. We saw last week that the average age for women getting married in Ireland now is 33 and the average age for men is 35. And those women in particular, they are past their most fertile years. Fertility starts to decline in a woman at about the age of 32. So why is it, when we realise that the primary end of marriage is children, why is it that our young people are ignoring this primary end of marriage, and are getting married when they are past their most fertile years. So that's an interesting question, there are many factors, and we'll start looking at that next week.

That's all for today

I'm John Lacken

May God bless you.

© John Lacken 2016

These articles are free to download, to print and to distribute provided that authorship is acknowledged and contact details for the author are provided as follows.

Author: John Lacken
Founder: Legio Sanctae Familiae – The Legion of the Holy Family
E-Mail: john@truedevotions.ie
Website: www.truedevotions.ie