

Clergy Pledge of Assent to *Humanae vitae*

*Beloved priest sons, by vocation you are the counselors and spiritual guides of individual persons and of families....Your first task—especially in the case of those who teach moral theology—is to expound the Church's teaching on marriage without ambiguity [Pope Paul VI, *Humanae vitae*, ¶28-29].*

In the face of lamentable clerical dissent and silence from the promulgation of the papal encyclical, *Humanae vitae*, on July 25, 1968, I, as an ordained Roman Catholic Bishop, Priest, Deacon [or Seminarian preparing for the sacred ministry] pledge to

...**humbly acknowledge** the divine authority of Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, and the teaching authority of His Vicar, the Roman Pontiff, and those bishops united with him, especially in the areas of faith and morals;

...**wholeheartedly support** the sacrament and the institution of holy matrimony, which engenders a love between man and woman that is human, total, faithful, exclusive and fruitful [¶9];

...**proclaim and affirm** that, in *Humanae vitae*, Pope Paul VI prophetically predicted that the use of contraceptives would lead to the following:

- Conjugal infidelity and a general lowering of morality;
- Men losing respect for their wives, considering them mere instruments of selfish enjoyment and no longer respected and beloved companions;
- Government imposition of contraception as population control on vulnerable populations; and
- Men claiming limitless dominion over the human body [¶17].

...**observe** that all of these prophecies have been fulfilled in our modern age, particularly in the Western world;

...**condemn** the separation of the unitive and the procreative aspects of the conjugal act, facilitated by sterilization, contraception, abortion, *in vitro* fertilization, homosexuality and other intrinsically evil acts [¶12, 14];

...**encourage** the use of the natural methods of fertility regulation, where serious reasons (*iustae causae*) exist, which are moral, safe and effective, which promote healthy family life, and which facilitate communication between husband and wife [¶16];

...**create** an atmosphere favorable to the practice of the most important virtue of “mastery of self” and of chastity for both married and unmarried people [¶21-22]; and

...**teach** the people entrusted to my pastoral care all that this great encyclical holds as true and holy.

Finally, I pledge support for the principles outlined in *Humanae vitae*, not only for the good of the Catholic faithful, but for the good of families and nations everywhere.

Clergy Signature

Name (Please Print)

Please sign and return to:
Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, President
Human Life International
4 Family Life Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630