

***Voice of the Family* calls on church leaders to be unwaveringly obedient to natural law and teaching of the Church**

John Smeaton, Rome 19 May 2015

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, SPUC, was the first pro-life group to be established anywhere in the world, in September 1966.

The *Voice of the Family* team was formed by SPUC, in conjunction with other pro-life and pro-family groups, in August 2014. We thought that a clear lay voice upholding the truth about marriage being the strongest protector of children both born and unborn might be helpful to bishops at the Synod during their deliberations. 24 organisations have joined this coalition from 13 different countries and 5 continents.

The *Voice of the Family* team was present in Rome in October last year to follow closely what took place at the Extraordinary Synod on the Family. We have since published a narrative on the proceedings which His Eminence Cardinal Burke says provides an accurate account of what happened and *Voice of the Family* has published an analysis of the final relatio, the final document, produced by the Synod authorities.

The silence of the Synod authorities' final document last October was deafening – on abortion, on contraception, the foundation stone of the culture of death, on euthanasia and assisted suicide, on pornographic anti-life sex education, on the suppression of parents as the primary educators of their children and on the indoctrination of children into the homosexual ideology. All of these evils are either crimes against life committed, millions upon millions of times annually, in the bosom of the family, or they are morally criminal activities imposed on children and parents worldwide millions of times annually. These crimes against life did not merit a mention in the Synod documents published by the Vatican.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation must be delighted with the Synod authorities. They understand the significance of the Synod authorities' silence on these matters better than anyone.

The issues at the Family Synod last year which have caught, above all, the attention of the world's media and political establishment, are, firstly, marriage and, in particular, the reception of Holy Communion by divorced persons living in invalid civil unions; and secondly, homosexual unions. The treatment of these issues was summed up, amongst others, by Cardinal Raymond Burke. He said that the interim Synod report was "a gravely flawed document and does not express adequately the teaching and discipline of the Church and, in some aspects, propagates doctrinal error and a false pastoral approach".

Why should the pro-life movement care about such things?

Voice of the Family and the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children care about these things because sacramental marriage, binding a man and a woman together in an indissoluble union, is the greatest protector of children born and unborn.

Government statistics show that in Britain children conceived outside of marriage are 4 to 5 times more likely to be aborted than those conceived within marriage.

Secondly, “same-sex marriage” represents an attempt to redefine marriage, thus undermining marriage and family life, as a growing body of academic research clearly shows. It is this undermining that lessens the protection for unborn children that true marriage provides.

No other grouping offers such a high level of that security and stability that human beings need to flourish. Research shows overwhelmingly that children growing up within marriage do better in terms of health, educational success, happiness, careers and their own marriages. It is precisely because children matter, that real marriage between one man and one woman matters so much.

Research by Dr Patricia Morgan, a leading researcher in family policy, commissioned by SPUC and presented to the British Parliament, shows that in countries in which same-sex marriage has been legalised, real marriage and family life are undermined – thus undermining also the protection, which marriage and family life provide to children, including unborn children.

What’s more, a major way in which the so-called “homosexual rights” lobby is actively undermining the family and the culture of life, is through targeting its message at little children in their schools including, in the UK, in Catholic primary schools. I have little doubt that the same pattern is repeated in other countries too.

I am sorry to have to share with you that homosexual militants are being invited into schools in our country, including into Catholic schools with the blessing of the local bishop, to train teachers how to educate little boys as young as four years old that they might grow up to marry a man rather than a woman – and the same with little girls.

Now what happens when little Johnny at Our Lady’s School, say, in south London, says to his teacher: “Please Miss! Can boys who grow up to marry a man have babies like mummies and daddies can?” Without a shadow of doubt, very many teachers will say “Yes they can. In a different way ... but yes they can.”

As you know, same-sex couples are now demanding the right to have children– making it even more difficult for pro-life groups effectively to oppose surrogacy and in vitro fertilisation. According to peer-reviewed research, for every baby born by IVF, 23 are either discarded, or frozen, or used in destructive experiments, or miscarry. Defending the right to life of unborn children will increasingly be viewed as an attack on the rights of homosexual couples.

Homosexual indoctrination thus leads to increased contempt for the sanctity of human life. The studied ambiguity of the Synod authorities’ published documents on the questions relating to homosexual unions in general and on children brought up by homosexual couples is of huge significance for the pro-life movement. If the Church at the highest levels insists on imposing its will on these matters, without prejudice to Catholic doctrine which can never change, and continues to proclaim an ambiguous message which gives aid and comfort to the homosexual lobby in our countries back home, the work of groups which work to safeguard the sanctity of human life from conception till natural death may effectively all but disappear off the world map.

So, we must ask, why is sacramental marriage now being challenged at the highest levels in the Church?

Cardinal Pell has publicly stated that this proposal is a “stalking horse” being proposed by “radical elements” within the Church who want, and I quote the Cardinal, “who want wider changes, recognition of civil unions, recognition of homosexual unions.”

Other recent developments at the Vatican are also causing *Voice of the Family* deep concern.

Last month, a symposium was held at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences called “Protect the Earth, Dignify Humanity. The Moral Dimensions of Climate Change and Sustainable Development”. This workshop featured two of the world’s leading population control advocates Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary General, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute. The event was jointly hosted, in anticipation of the new papal encyclical on the environment, by Pontifical Academy for Sciences (PAS), Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Religions for Peace.

My organisation, SPUC, has been sending lobbyists to the United Nations for the past twenty years seeking to uphold the sanctity of human life in international agreements. Two of our greatest opponents in recent years have been Ban Ki-Moon and Jeffrey Sachs. In light of the attacks on innocent human life witnessed by SPUC at the UN under the guise of environmental concerns, it is very troubling to note the desire as stated in the agenda of this workshop “to help build a global movement across all religions for sustainable development and climate change throughout 2015 and beyond”.

It is even more troubling that this timetable exactly coincides with the negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN, which include these very attacks on the most vulnerable members of the world’s population. The SDG negotiations that will culminate in June and July will determine the direction and financial aid for third world countries for the next 15 years. By the time of these negotiations we should have a papal encyclical on – environmentalism.

Understandably the population control, pro-abortion lobby must be feeling very much empowered by the influence being exercised in the Vatican by two of the culture of death’s leading figures, Ban Ki Moon and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, especially just before the publication of an encyclical on the environment. If the encyclical remains silent on the hidden UN agenda, one can be quite certain that the UN and Obama administration will find ways how to use the encyclical to promote sustainable development goals.

Ban Ki-Moon has on many occasions promoted the “right” to abortion worldwide¹. He also issued a controversial report this year on sexual violence in conflict zones, which was critical of the lack of so-called “safe abortion” in many conflict situations. The directive openly defies the consensus at the UN that abortion is an issue that should be left to individual nations.

Dr Jeffrey Sachs is a well-known international proponent of population control and abortion. He is a man sowing panic and fear that the world is overpopulated and that fertility rates must be lowered. In 2007 Sachs claimed “we are bursting at the seams”.

Sachs is one of the architects of the millennium development goals and a member of the Executive Board of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The Network to which

¹ In September 2010 at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and Navanethem Pillay, the then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, launched a report “on discrimination against women, in law and practice, and how the issue is addressed throughout the United Nations human rights system”. In that report they called for the policing of nations worldwide to “address the refusal of physicians to perform legal abortions”.

Sachs belongs has proposed draft Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which contain provisions that are radically antagonistic to the right to life from conception to natural death, to the rights and dignity of the family and to the rights of parents as the primary educators of their children.

The final SDGs' document at the UN is going to be signed in September. Pope Francis is going to address the UN General Assembly in September on - environmentalism. Very sadly, it is all too obvious that his address could be seen as providing acceptance or validation by the Catholic Church of the global population-control agenda. Pope Francis is already on record as saying that mankind is behind of 99% of the climate change.

Without prejudice to the validity or otherwise of the many theories about climate change, they should not be exploited to bring into question or deny the inviolability and the sanctity of each and every human life, unborn or born.

Voice of the Family is a coalition of Catholic leaders of pro-life groups. The lay faithful, have both the right and the duty to make known to our pastors our views about the crisis engulfing the Catholic Church.

We have a right and a duty to require from our clergy and from the Holy Father unwavering, unambiguous obedience to the natural law and the teaching of the Church. No authority, not even the Pope, has the power or the right to alter, or to appear to alter, in any way that which has been revealed to the Church by Almighty God.