

A Conundrum With Condoms

The “popular” wisdom these days insists that because we can’t stop our children from engaging in pre-marital sex, and because such sex can be dangerous and have bad effects, we should do everything we can to protect our youngsters by giving them condoms.

Condoms, we are assured, help decrease pregnancies and decrease sexually transmitted diseases in a simple, straightforward way. If parents love their children, they will surely see to it that they have “protection.”

This argument, widely accepted in all strata of our society, relies on a seriously flawed understanding of what love really means. We need only consider a related example to see this flaw clearly. If our children decide that they are going to play hopscotch on the asphalt of a busy interstate highway, in the midst of high-speed traffic, would we be manifesting our love for them by giving them helmets to place over their heads for “protection,” or would real love involve pulling them off the roadway and insisting they learn abstinence from freeway hopscotch? Which of these actions genuinely manifests a parent’s love for

his children?

True love often demands a higher and a more committed path, in place of an easier or more permissive path. Condoms, in the guise of a loving solution, involve us in a grave moral compromise, tempt us to yield to a more permissive path and invariably fail the demands of true love.

Those demands are particularly challenging for a married couple, one of whom has contracted AIDS. In order to protect the uninfected partner, some argue that it should be permissible for the husband to make use of a condom during marital relations. Otherwise, unprotected sex might well be the equivalent of a death sentence for the uninfected partner.

The popular wisdom here again assures us that condoms are the loving answer to a difficult situation. But true spousal



MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

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love, in these sad circumstances, beckons us to a higher and harder path — a path of marital abstinence. A husband who has AIDS would never want to subject the wife he loves to a potentially death-dealing act on his part, which is what sexual intercourse could become for her, even while using a condom (which has a failure rate). Would it be a loving act to subject her to the risk of a possibly fatal encounter, even for something as beautiful as conjugal intimacy in marriage? Although it is an integral part of married love, sexual activity is, in fact, not absolutely essential for us as human beings, distinct from the case of eating or sleeping. We tend to lose sight of that basic fact in a relentlessly sex-permeated society.

Perpetual marital abstinence is certainly a difficult proposal, and is generally not recommend-

ed, but grave circumstances like AIDS represent a strong call to this particular kind of sacrificial love and sexual self-mastery. It is not completely different from the situation of a married couple, one of whom is called to long-term military service overseas, wherein both are required to practice sexual continence when they are separated perhaps for years.

Many married couples do live as brother and sister for a host of reasons, and AIDS certainly constitutes a grave reason to justify such a choice. Learning to love each other in different and non-genital ways is, in fact, an integral component of every successful and enduring marriage, and an AIDS infection merely brings greater urgency and immediacy to the task.

The use of condoms in marriage, beyond all the talk of ef-

fectiveness and failure rates, involves us in some very significant moral violations. Condoms, invariably a form of contraception, violate marital love right at its core. By making use of contraception, we say to our spouse, in effect: “I love you, except for your fertility and fecundity. I will not embrace that part of you. Rather, I will cordon it off, separate it and put it aside, so I can use my sexuality and the rest of you in a way that brings satisfaction to me.”

But marital sexuality, and marriage in general, really involves the complete and unreserved gift of our self to our spouse. Marital love is not meant to be partial. Marital sexual intercourse is a special personal language that always means surrendering ourselves totally. Such a total self-donation embodies within itself the radical possibility of engendering new life, which can then be protected and raised within the pact of that couple’s unreserved and indissoluble love.

The use of a condom, on the other hand, may permit a couple to mutually generate certain pleasurable sensations

See MAKING SENSE on page 18



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CLASSIFIEDS

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Young Adult/Youth Ministry

Ave Maria Catholic Church in Parker, Colo., is seeking a Director of Young Adult/Youth Ministry. The general purpose of this position is to coordinate and oversee Young Adult/Youth Ministry programs from 6th- through 12th-grade levels and for young adults who have graduated from high school. The position will also require the coordination of the sacramental process of Confirmation. Education: Bachelor's or Master's Degree in pastoral ministry, youth ministry, religious education, theology. A complete job description and application can be obtained in the parish office Monday-Thursday during business hours, or by e-mailing jmenicucci@avemariaonline.org. This position will close Aug. 1.

Coordinator of Religious Education

We are looking for a Coordinator of Religious Education to begin working in June or July of this year. This is a 30-hour per week position, eligible for full benefits. Salary is commensurate with education and experience background and is negotiable. Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the religious education of children and high-school students, adult formation, preparation for reception of sacraments and the RCIA process. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic. Background check is required. Resumes to: Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Rector, 414 W. 11th Street, Pueblo, CO 81003-2888.

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Making Sense

(Continued from page 14)

together, but it explicitly militates against that full gift of self that is written right into the inner language of the marital act itself. Couples close off a part of themselves to the other, and deny access to the deepest and most life-giving center of who they are whenever they engage in contraceptive sex.

Contraception is a kind of lie that a man and a woman speak to each other through their bodies, feigning the total gift of themselves to each other, but always actually holding back that gift.

ADORATION/MASSES/ CONFESSIONS/DEVOTIONS

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be at the following homes in Colorado Springs this month:

* June 23-June 24, Gertrud Spence, 613 Stevens Ave., 719-633-7839.

* June 24-July 1, Laura Hughes, 2709 Lark Dr., 719-630-2257.

* July 1-8, Aurelia Altamiran, 501 E. Cheyenne Rd., 719-471-9805.

For more information, call Ramon Segura at 719-382-8756 or Manny Ochoa at 719-392-2350.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 218 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, is hosting a **Taize Prayer for World Peace** service the **first Monday of every month** at 7:30 p.m.

EDUCATION/LECTURES

A **Beginnings Plus Workshop** will be held July 27-30 in Colorado Springs. If you have ever thought about becoming involved with your parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) there is a wonderful opportunity coming to the diocese for anyone interested in becoming a team member. For more information and to register please contact Betsy Bumgarner at 719-473-4633.

Fishers Leadership Conference will be held **July 28-29** at **Colorado College**. "Fishers '06: Catch and Release . . . Many the People . . . Many the Gifts" has been developed by the Youth Ministers of the Diocese of Colorado Springs. The purpose of Fishers is to develop effective ministry skills in youth and adults as they work in the light of Christ's call to ministry and his great com-

mission. Keynote speakers include John Campbell and Rosy Hartz. For more information, contact Kathy Bull at 719-636-2345.

Registrations are now being taken at **Benet Hill for its Scripture study program** this fall. This comprehensive program covers all the books of the Bible. Tuition for the entire year is \$390, with a 10 percent discount for couples and those 65 and older. Scholarships are also available. For more information and to register, please contact Sister Diane at 719-633-0655, ext. 33.

FOOD AND FUN

Diocesan youth and young adults are invited to join other young people from the diocese at **Six Flags/Elitch Gardens** on **June 28**. Tickets are \$26.50 each and include park admission and lunch. Please contact your parish youth director for tickets.

St. Scholastica Academy of Cañon City is holding a reunion for all students, faculty, staff and friends **July 1-2** in Colorado Springs. For more information, call Mercedes at 720-254-7319 or register at www.ssa-network.org.

The **Colorado Springs Cursillo** is having its **annual picnic** on **July 16** from noon-3 p.m. at Black Forest Regional Park, Pavilion No. 1. This is a pot luck so bring your favorite dish. For more information, call Mary Waechter at 719-442-0333.

Diocesan Youth Day is **July 19** at Water World in Denver. Tickets are \$18 and include park admission. Please contact your parish youth minister for tickets or call Kathy Bull at the Total Catholic Education Office, 719-636-2345, for more information.

Single Parent Family Fun Night will be held at 6:30-9 p.m. **July 21** at Holy Apostles Church. Your child will enjoy a G-rated movie while you enjoy fellow-

ship with other parents. Please bring a snack to share and a \$3 registration fee. For more information or to register, please visit www.holyapostlescc.org.

Generation Celebration 2006, a musical variety show, will take place **7:30 p.m. Aug. 5** at the Benet Hill Monastery Auditorium, 2577 N. Chelton Rd. Cost of tickets is a free-will donation. Proceeds from the show will **benefit the retirement & continuing care fund for the Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery**. Please call 719-633-0655 to reserve your tickets, which are required for admission.

Our Lady of the Woods Parish, 116 S. West Street, Woodland Park is hosting their annual **garage sale** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **Aug. 12**. All proceeds go to **Help the Needy**. If you would like to donate items, please call the parish office at 719-687-9345.

MARRIAGE

The **Diocese of Colorado Springs' Office of Marriage and Family Life** is offering a four-week **marriage preparation course Aug. 24-Sept. 14** at St. Mary's Cathedral in Colorado Springs. The program runs from 6-8:30 p.m. for four consecutive Thursdays. The last course in 2006 is scheduled for Oct. 19-Nov. 9. To register, call 719-471-9702 or go to www.catholicmarriageprep.com.

Marriage Encounter is offering its next retreat **Sept. 15-17**. The weekend is designed to strengthen and enrich marriages and is open to married couples of all faiths. The registration fee is \$40 per couple, and a voluntary donation is asked during the weekend. A retreat will also be held Nov. 10-12. For more information go to www.marriageencounter.net/community/.

Colorado Springs Catholic Engaged Encounter is an inter-

nationally renowned marriage preparation program for couples planning to marry in the Catholic Church. The next marriage preparation retreat weekend is **Oct. 13-15** at the Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center in Larkspur. For more information go to www.coscee.org/coscee.

Natural Family Planning classes at Holy Apostles (Andrew Bartholomew room); **July 1** at 2:30 p.m. Please contact Jeff and Katy Appelkans, 719-570-6837 to register. Babysitting will be available by the Holy Apostles professional staff; please let Katy or Jeff know how many children you will be placing in babysitting when you register. Other classes will start regularly throughout the diocese. Please call 719-866-6508 or visit www.coloradonfp.org.

MEETINGS

Holy Apostles Parish, 4925 Carefree Circle North, Colorado Springs, invites you to attend "**Fresh Fire, Faith Alive! The Charismatic Gifts — Power for Mission**" series on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. **June 28-Aug. 2**. The series will focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is no charge, but a donation of \$10 is suggested for materials. For more information, call Deacon Chuck Matzker at 719-598-3595 or go to www.newpentecost.net.

PRO-LIFE

Join **Fathers Jim Williams and Bill Carmody** on **July 1** for the **Diocesan Pro-Life Committee's Vigil for Life** for the unborn and their parents in front of Planned Parenthood, 14th St. and W. Colorado Ave. Mass will be celebrated there at 8 a.m., followed by a rosary and a peaceful vigil. On the other Saturdays of the month, Father Carmody and Marge Knight lead a rosary at 8 a.m., followed by Mass. For more information, call Peg and Joe Roach, 719-388-2160. Future first Saturday Mass concelebrants will be: Aug. 5 — Bishop Michael Sheridan; Sept. 2 — Father Steve Parlet, Corpus Christi; Oct. 7 — Father Paul Wicker, Holy Apostles; Nov. 4 — Father Gus Stewart, St. Gabriel the Archangel.

VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Marian House Soup Kitchen is in need of drivers for the **summer months** while the regular drivers are on vacation. The drivers pick up food at various locations for the soup kitchen. Please call Frank Mora at 719-475-7314 to volunteer.

Obituary

Sister of St. Francis Frances Inezetta Arens

MILWAUKEE. Funeral Mass for School Sister of St. Francis Inezetta Arens was celebrated June 15 at St. Joseph Convent Chapel in Campbellsport, Wis. Interment followed at the Sisters' cemetery there. Sister Inezetta died June 10 at St. Joseph Convent.

Sister Inezetta was born Aug. 30, 1920, in Chicago and was received into the School Sisters of St. Francis commu-

nity on June 13, 1937.

She made her profession of vows Aug. 12, 1939. She lived her religious ministry as a homemaker, a supervisor in a medical center and a director of food service in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Colorado and Illinois.

She served as a homemaker at Corpus Christi Convent in Colorado Springs from 1954-60.