



IVE THIRD ORDER HONG KONG

NEWSLETTER

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Pro-life Group of The Third Order in Hong Kong

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What is "Pro-life"?

Pro-Life means a respect and understanding of the intrinsic value of every human life, regardless of age or disability. It means each of us is a human being worthy of dignity and respect from conception to natural death.

Pro-life is a term that represents a variety of activists and movements related with the bioethics matter.

This term can be used to oppose bad practices such as:

- Abortion
- Contraception
- Euthanasia
- Human cloning
- Embryonic stem cell
- Capital punishment / death penalty
- Unjust war

"Pro-life" Goal:

It is to expose the truth about the dignity of human life and to use our full strength against the most devastating attacks on life in our day, through abortion and euthanasia, etc. We want to advocate ourselves in using methods like: teaching, education, prayers, healing and information, to clarify and strengthen

the minds and the consciences of many persons who want a better life and together with us, to speak with one voice that **life is so precious in the eyes of God, so do not destroy it!**

Our "Pro-life" Group

We, the pro-life group of the IVE Third Order Hong Kong, invite you to join us with one voice and one love, to defend the lives of the vulnerable unborn children and their mothers. We have different activities like lessons, sharing and discussion on different topics: family and marriage, gospel of life, sex education, pornography in the mass media, contraception, natural family planning, and other family values.

Just Remember:

Remember that abortion is murder and there are no permissible exceptions.

The Motives of our Group

The motives of our group is to "LOVE" one another as Jesus has loved us" (Jn 13:34) "We are the people of God, in His unconditional Love, has given us the Gospel of Life ..., and we are called to act accordingly" (*Evangelium Vitae* N°79)



THE ROAD TO MARRIAGE: COURTSHIP



"If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, gestation and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology. It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves."

~ Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* N 51~

(Courtship, part II)

ACQUIRING THE NECESSARY MEANS

Many means are needed to carry out this undertaking. The first are **virtues**. The great majority of marriage (if not all) that fail come from a lack of virtue in one or both of the spouses.

Marriage demands virtuousness from the very beginning. Perhaps, initially the need goes unnoticed because the couple lives in a type of idyllic life; but even at the beginning, the need is often felt. This is why one must enter marriage with acquired virtues.

Through effort virtues can be attained after marriage, but it would certainly be more difficult.

What virtues? Those pertinent to a man and a woman living together: patience in the face of weaknesses discovered throughout life, accompaniment during times of pain, and self-control with regards to the passions.

We must include the virtues of frankness, effort, hard-work, etc.

It is especially a time for growth and for acquiring charity, mercy, and mutual generosity.

Secondly, to get married the couple must have the **capacity for friendship**, given that matrimonial love is a special friendship: a singular friendship for life. Likewise, the **capacity for dialogue** is necessary.

Many marriages lack authentic dialogue between husband and wife and, consequently, also between parent and child.

This capacity for dialogue, at least in part, must be acquired during the period of court-

ship.

Thirdly, it is the time to exercise **control over their affectivity**, that is, over their desire for pleasure.

Due to the wounds left by original sin, this is one of man's most undisciplined inclinations.

Thus, if the virtue that regulates it is lacking, one will fall under the control of the opposing vice.

One is either temperate or intemperate, chaste or lustful. Given its nature, during the courtship, there is no shortage of temptations against chastity. Consequently, this is the time when the proper acts of the virtue of chastity must be practiced (such as decency and modesty).

But, most importantly, it is the time to **grow in faith**.

No marriage can last if it is not sustained by the supernatural life.

This is why dialoguing and planning their life of faith is essential and must be clarified during the time of courtship. The marriage will also be a companionship in the spiritual life, but that must begin before.

PREMARITAL RELATIONS

THE CURRENT PROBLEM

One of the greatest problems serious courtships face today is the false moral idea about premarital relations, that is to say, the complete sexual act between couples who seriously intend to marry or who at least are seriously considering the possibility of marriage.

These types of relations between couples have become, in many instances, so prevalent that many judge it as "normal," properly belonging in every courtship.

The causes of its propagation

can be seen in various aspects of our current times:

- Reducing love to sex.
- Reducing sex to genitalia.
- The indefinite prolongation of some courtships.
- The bombardment of pornography in the media.
- The easy accessibility of contraceptives, and the contraceptive and abortionist mentality, even within marriage itself.
- The loss of the sense of chastity and virginity.
- The lack of education of character and affectivity in general.

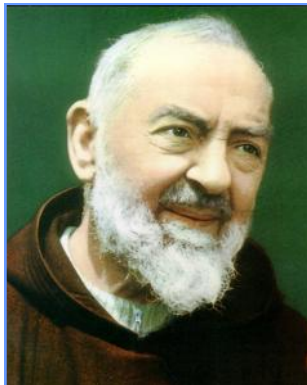
In terms of the prohibition of fornication, moral judgment leaves no room for discussion: "Fornication is carnal union between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. It is gravely contrary to the dignity of persons and of human sexuality which is naturally ordered to the good of spouses and the generation and education of children.

Moreover, it is a grave scandal when there is corruption of the young."

Nevertheless, for some moralists and for many faithful Catholics, premarital sex would not fall under this category

because, some would say, it should be judged as love within the future planned marriage. Since we cannot deny that engaged couples truly love one another, then one cannot say that premarital sex falls outside this love.

A Church document says: "today there are many who vindicate the right to sexual union before marriage, at least in those cases where a firm intention to marry and an affection which is already in some way conjugal in the psychology of the subjects require this completion, which they judge to be connatural." But, is it really connatural?



Abortion is a crime - a crime against life at its source - which St. Padre Pio felt atrociously; he who had given his own life as a complete gift to our Lord.

Testimony of life

ROMANS 1:16

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of those who believe”.

This beautiful verse from the Bible has touched my life and my whole being. As everybody says “Life is too short” And at my age now I have come to realize what kind of life I had in the past. I have done many things which I really thought would make me happy but I was wrong..... I have attended mass but still I was longing for something more. It was not until I started reading the Bible and attending the Third Order meetings, that my feelings changed and I felt so great.

My Life now is full of joy, peace and more blessed, I am so proud of myself now. I am not ashamed to shout out to the whole world that listening to the Word of God has made my life complete. Not only that, I'm also really sure that what I am doing now is a great preparation for the salvation of my Soul.

By: Luisa B. Bacanto
Choir Member



Fr. Emilio Rossi, Missionary in Papua New Guinea

In the month of January Fr. Emilio Rossi, missionary in Papua New Guinea, has visited us. He has shared with us all the graces that our fathers there have received in their challenging and fruitful mission. Until now there are two fathers working in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea. They run five different communities of faithful, celebrating Mass, teaching catechism, hearing confession, adoring the Blessed Sacrament, etc. The fathers are also teaching in the seminary of Vanimo. We would like to thank Fr. Emilio for his example of love and happiness. We want especially to thank him for his example in loving so much the mission that God has given him. We pray to God and Mama Mary that they continue to bless IVE fathers with enormous fruits in their great mission in Papua New Guinea.



24/1/2010 14:21

Philippines: Pro-life Center



It was a great joy to have this new challenging apostolate that God has entrusted to us!
“PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE”
Caloocan City, Philippines:

We started this apostolate in July last year. This was when a mother of our feeding program for malnourished children approached one SSVM Sister and shared her difficulty of having another baby and was planning to abort the baby. The sister offered her help as much as possible to convince this woman to keep the baby. In short the sister succeeded and the mother gave birth to a baby girl. Since then, we wished that someday we could have a program for mothers having high risk pregnancies and abortion minded. Our Centre now provides a feeding program for malnourished children, and children’s oratory to ease the hunger of some children in the area. Providentially, a generous man, who is involved in the pro-life movement, gave us funds for this apostolate. He wants us to have pro-life Center to help mothers in need. It was clear proof that God was asking us to start this apostolate.

For this reason we set up a Center called “Center for Life”. We formed a group for this apostolate. They are nine the volunteer members who are helping us to run this Center.

We have just officially inaugurated the Center on February 7th, 2010 with a Solemn Mass presided by Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. D.D. The Mass was followed by the cutting of the ribbon by Dr. Lutgarda Quito and Congressman Oscar Malapitan. Bishop Teodoro blessed the Center. After the blessing Dr. Quito and Congressman Malapitan expressed publically their willingness to support us in any way.

As of now we have some volunteer nurses and doctors who offer a few hours of their time each week.

Our first intention is to stop abortion, support and help pregnant women, and those in need.

This apostolate provides mothers with counseling, formation courses, free pre-natal care and medical assistance during their pregnancy, vitamins for the mothers and milk, diapers and clothing for the babies.

We offer support to single mothers, mothers who are married but they finds some difficulties of having another baby and all mothers that are abortion minded and have no support from their families.

We adore the Blessed Sacrament one hour every first Friday of the month for the atonement of the victims of abortion. (Both for the mother and for the baby)

As of now we have served 14 mothers, among these numbers there were 7 single mothers, 4 are ages 16-18 years old living with their boyfriend and the rest are with their husband (or should I say live-in partner) but they are really poor.

We are very thankful for all those generous people who helped us to make this Center possible. We ask for your prayers that we may be able to do the best we can to help and save more babies that are in danger of abortion.

