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Vol. IX: No. 4

1984 — Women for Faith & Family — 1994

December 1994

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**P**OPE JOHN PAUL II concludes *Tertio Millenio Adveniente*, his Apostolic Letter for the Jubilee of the Year 2000 dated November 10, 1994, by entrusting the whole Church to the "Maternal intercession of Mary, mother of the Redeemer."  
*"She, the mother of fairest love, will be for Christians on the way to the Great Jubilee of the third millennium the star which safely guides their steps to the Lord."*  
*"May the unassuming young woman of Nazareth, who 2,000 years ago offered to the world the Incarnate Word, lead the men and women of the new millennium toward the One who is 'the true light that enlightens every man.'"*

## VATICAN CARDINAL KEYNOTES WFF'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

**C**ARDINAL ALFONSO LOPEZ TRUJILLO, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council on the Family, was keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary conference of Women for Faith and Family on Friday, November 4. The cardinal was introduced by Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis. The three-day conference observing the International Year of the Family was held in St. Louis. About 200 participants from across the nation attended the conference sessions and liturgies, including representatives from six dioceses.

Other featured speakers were: Omaha Archbishop Elden Curtiss, member of the Pontifical Council on the Family and the US Bishops' Pro-life Committee; Dr. Janine Langan, of the Institute for Cultural Studies at the University of Toronto; Dr. James Hitchcock, professor of history at St. Louis University; Dr. Ralph McInerny, of the Jacques Maritain Center at Notre Dame University and creator of the "Father Dowling" mysteries; Nancy Valko, Nurses for Life; Tim Kelly, delegate to the recent UN conference on population in Cairo; and Helen Hull Hitchcock, director of Women for Faith & Family. An action symposium on Sunday afternoon concluded the weekend's activities.

Cardinal Lopez Trujillo's address, "The Family, Heart of the Civilization of Love", emphasized the traditional family structure as essential to a just social order. "There can be no compromise on protecting fundamental family rights," the Cardinal stated, and stressed that marriage is rooted in nature, not cultural convention. He contrasted the Christian view of marriage based on unselfish love with the overemphasis on the rights of the individual in contemporary culture, and predicted that social disaster awaits the liberal secular societies who have turned away from the traditional family as the essential, basic community. The Cardinal called wives and mothers "bearers of the Civilization of Love", emphasizing their vital role in the process of educating the children within the family structure, and their influence on civilizing and socializing and humanizing society. (For complete text of Cardinal Lopez Trujillo's address see page 4.)

WFF's annual Faith and Family Award was presented to Cardinal Lopez Trujillo. He celebrated a Pontifical Mass on Saturday morning at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (the Old Cathedral), where he also gave an Apostolic Blessing on behalf of Pope John Paul II to the conference participants. The Cardinal, a native of Colombia and former president of CELAM, the

*Continued on page 2*



## WFF 10th Anniversary Conference

*Continued from page one*

Latin American bishops' conference, is also a member of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and other curial offices.

**Archbishop Elden Curtiss** addressed the conference on Sunday, November 6, on the critical role of parents in moral and religious formation of their children. Schools exist to help parents, Archbishop Curtiss said, but cannot replace the parents' role. Noting that many parents feel overwhelmed by alarming social problems, he urged parents to participate actively and fully with school and parish administrators in developing curricula of moral and religious education. He noted in particular that Catholic school administrators must listen to parents, and encouraged parents to insist on programs which are genuinely consistent with Catholic teaching.

"The Domestic Church, the Covenant and the Cross" was the title of **Helen Hull Hitchcock's** address on Saturday, November 5. Drawing on teachings of Pope John Paul II, Mrs. Hitchcock explained that relationships between husband and wife, imitating the relationship between Christ and His Church, must be a covenant of love which is essential to nurturing the children, and the well-being of all its members. Seeing the family as the Domestic Church means that its "mission" is to become a "community of life and love", and to extend unselfish love from the family into the world.

**James Hitchcock's** address, "The Making of the Modern Family", noted the universality of the family as a basic social structure throughout history, and traced the development of social attitudes about the institution of marriage and family from essentially economic or dynastic concerns to the rise of a genuinely Christian concept of marriage based on love, valuing children for themselves. Although taught by the Church, the sacred emphasis given to family life did not become prevalent in society until the 19th century; and the recent precipitous decline in society parallels the decline in the Christian view of family, he said.

Speaking on "Transmission of Our Catholic Heritage", **Janine Langan** observed that although Christianity is not bound to any particular culture, acceptance of Christian beliefs and moral principles profoundly affects the entire culture; not only its institutions and world view, but also in art, architecture, music, and social attitudes. Dr. Langan, who instituted a program of Catholic studies at the University of Toronto, also suggested ways in which young Catholics can be brought to an appreciation of their faith through an encounter with historic Christian culture.

**Nancy Valko**, president of Missouri Nurses for Life, a "single parent" and a nurse specializing in care of cancer patients, spoke on social pathologies and their effect on the family. She gave practical advice on dealing with such problems as divorce, illegitimacy, drug abuse and abortion, some of the pathologies which create pain and disruption within the family.

In his banquet address, "Family Resemblances", **Ralph McInerny** described the woman's position in the family as that of the universalist in the marital relationship, and the husband as the specialist. The woman is the one who most often socializes and "civilizes" the children, and mediates between the children and the world they encounter, he said. Dr. McInerny also reflected on the essential role of the Catholic Church as defender of the moral order and the custodian of the natural law within our society which has lost its cultural moorings.

Illinois lawyer, **Tim Kelly**, reported Sunday morning on the UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, which he attended as a representative of two non-governmental organizations (NGO), the Rockford Institute and the National Institute of Womanhood. He gave an overview of past UN population conferences, and commented on how the media had distorted the facts in reporting on the Cairo Conference. He said, for example, it is not true that the discussion was focused largely on abortion, or that the vigorous opposition by the Vatican to key proposals "lost" in the final document. Kelly said that about 130 countries out of the 170 represented opposed the view of abortion as birth control held by US and other "first world" official delegations. There was substantial support for the "Vatican position" from NGO representatives and "third world" delegates, he said. Other topics discussed in Cairo were adolescent sex-education, international migration, and defense of the family. Kelly also mentioned the importance of the International Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

Archbishop Curtiss celebrated a Pontifical Mass on Sunday at the Old Cathedral which featured the Chorale of St. Peter of Jefferson City, Missouri. Celebrants of Vespers on Friday and Saturday were The Revs. Ralph Wright, OSB, of the St. Louis Abbey, and The Rev. Kevin Horrigan.

An "Action Symposium" was held on Sunday afternoon, featuring brief formal presentations followed by "open mike" interventions and conversation by participants.

Audio tapes of all conference sessions are available (see tape order form in this issue).

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Pope John Paul II receiving updated list of Affirmation signers from WFF director, Helen Hull Hitchcock

## Hitchcock attends Vatican's Family Congress, gives new list to Pope

WFF director, Helen Hull Hitchcock attended the International Family Congress in Rome October 6—9. The Congress, held at the Lateran University, was sponsored by the Pontifical Council on the Family, and attended by more than 500 representatives of family organizations throughout the world.

Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo keynoted the Congress lecture series given by internationally known authorities. Bishop Elio Sgreccia, of the new Pontifical Academy for Life addressed the group on medical ethics.

Among others from the U.S. participating were John and Shiela Kippley, Couple to Couple League and Carl Anderson, of the Knights of Columbus and the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and the Family.

A celebration for the International Year of the Family was held in St. Peter's square on October 8, and a papal Mass on October 9. Both were attended by about half a million people.

As a member of the press corps, Mrs. Hitchcock attended news conferences of the bishops' Synod on Consecrated Life held during the month of October. Mother Vincent-Marie Finnegan, OCD, Alhambra, CA, represented the Conference of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) at the Synod. Cardinal John O'Connor was a vice-president of the Synod. Other US prelates attending were Cardinals Hickey,

Baum, Foley and Bernardin, Archbishops William Keeler and John Quinn, Bishops Francis George and James Timlin. The Rev. Paul Mankowski, SJ, had been appointed by the Holy See as a *peritus* (expert), but his Jesuit superior did not feel able to release him from his teaching duties to serve.

An apostolic letter based the Synod is expected soon.

On October 15, Mrs. Hitchcock was invited to attend the private Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in his chapel in the Apostolic Palace, after which she presented the new list of signers of the *Affirmation for Catholic Women* to His Holiness.

"God bless you — and God bless all the faithful women of the United States and in all the world", he said. (*See letter, p. 16.*)

The first list of 10,000 names was presented to the Pope in 1985. The list has grown to more than 40,000 from the United States, and about 10,000 from other countries. A Polish *Affirmation* and a history of WFF's *Affirmation* effort was included with the list.

While in Rome, Mrs. Hitchcock also met with officials from the Pontifical Council on the Family, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Pontifical Council on the Laity and the Secretariat of State.

[Note: Additions to the list will be sent to the Holy Father. For copies of the *Affirmation*, contact the WFF office.]



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Keynote Address of  
His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal López Trujillo,  
President of the Pontifical Council for the Family  
to the tenth annual conference of Women for Faith & Family on the  
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

## *The Family, the Heart of the Civilization of Love*

**Y**OUR EXCELLENCIES, Reverend Monsignori, Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ, it is a great joy for me to be able to come to St. Louis to this tenth annual conference of Women for Faith and Family.

First, I wish to put on record one aspect of this visit to St. Louis which brings me great happiness, the opportunity of being once more with Archbishop Justin Rigali, whom I have known so well for many years, during his dedicated and untiring service of the Holy Father in Rome.

Women for Faith and Family, this highly respected Catholic organization, stands out for its calm and confident witness to the Church's vision of the woman and the family in today's world. In particular I thank Mrs. Helen Hitchcock for her courageous work for the Church.

The subject of my paper is taken from the words of the Holy Father Pope John Paul II in his *Letter to Families*: "the family is the center and the heart of the civilization of love". Together, let us explore what these fascinating words mean.

### **The Family in Society**

You are all familiar with the Holy Father's words in *Familiaris Consortio* 86, "The future of humanity passes by way of the family". This short sentence sums up the irreplaceable relationship between the family and society. This is a two-way relationship. The achievements made by the family revert back to the good of society. But when the family breaks down, the social fabric is broken and endangered. On the other hand, anything that goes wrong in society has negative repercussions on the family, and everything that ensures the appropriately conceived good of society helps to fulfill the mission of the family.

So we dare not, we must not, say that the family is something indifferent, neutral or "private", something marginal in the overall social context. Yet this is precisely the dangerous delusion of those who, even in this Year of the Family, say that the family is the basis of society and yet in fact deny or reduce its relationship or set it aside in favor of individuals or anti-family pressure groups.

This was one of the many problems at the United Nations Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in

September. Thanks be to God, marriage and family find a place in the final document of that Conference, due to the work of the Holy See and the other nations, especially Islamic countries, who share our concerns for life and the family.

However, the Holy Father draws us further into the social role of the family when, in his *Letter to Families*, 13, he recalls how the expression "civilization of love" (which was coined, in fact, by Pope Paul VI) "has entered the teaching of the Church and by now has become familiar". In the same paragraphs of his letter, which has enjoyed such an excellent reception within and beyond the Church, the Pope observes that although the word "civilization" stresses a political dimension of an individual's existence ("civilization" is derived from "civis" - citizen). Therefore civilization has, in the deepest sense, a properly "humanist" significance.

Civilization is made up of persons, it is built around citizens relating to one another. To form the "civilization of love" a whole complex and demanding process is required. A concrete example of this, which guides us by its dramatic contrasts, is the struggle for human life against abortion and euthanasia — a struggle which cannot remain only political, but must at the same time embrace education at all levels, pastoral care, prayer, witness, etc. — that is, a total humanizing and hence civilizing process. Yet behind that struggle for human life are certain presuppositions about the truth of the human person and his innate value and dignity, whether we are speaking of attempts to kill an unborn baby or an elderly woman in hospital.

Therefore, to understand this civilization of love you have to go to the truth about man, the truth about the family and only then to the truth about society. Without these interrelated truths, "civilization" is merely a superficial term which describes an ordered or developed society, where people are polite to one another.

### **The Truth About Man**

If you have a false understanding of human nature, if you fail to understand the human person, and build your whole civilization upon that distortion, the results will be truly terrible. We have seen this in the Nazi system, and more recently in the



Communist systems based on the Marxist doctrine of human nature.

Both those systems failed to understand man in relationship to God; they either claimed God did not exist or they put man, the race or the state in His place. But you cannot ignore the relationship of the person to God.

Thus we build our Christian anthropology on the truth of creation: man is made in the image and likeness of God. Man is God's creature yet, at the same time, he represents God. Being an image of God is a concrete reality that belongs to the human person. It is a reality which has been received as a gift, a reality which reaches its most noble projection in Jesus Christ, who is the perfect image of the Father.

At the same time being an image of God is a mission, a vocation, a task, something entrusted to each person so he can make it grow. In that sense, the person is the architect of his own destiny, yet entrusted with developing a divine plan which involves each person's moral perfecting, his growth in being. This humanization leads to an integral liberation, the freedom of the sons and daughters of God.

On this foundation of truth will emerge a very different kind of society than that offered by the totalitarian ideologies I have already mentioned. It will be a civilization of persons related to God, who is the Source of love. But it will also be different from the dominant Western secular liberal society around us today. Based on individualism, on the assertion of an absolute autonomy which ignores God, that society is producing a permissive and decadent civilization of death. The essence of that system can be distilled into one deadly arrogant expression—"pro-choice".

However, as an image of God, each person is called by God. Responsible, free and personal collaboration is thus inherent in God's own design, in his will for the good of the person. We are called to grow in that good we have received from God, in a response which is a grace-filled collaboration with Him.

But none of us lives alone. We are not islands. We are social beings, made to relate to others in a communion of persons. The first and foremost created communion of persons exists between a man and a woman. Thus, at the very beginning of his discussion of "the civilization of love" in his *Letter to Families*, 6, the Holy Father underlines the truth of Genesis 1.27: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them..." The Pope comments: "Human fatherhood and motherhood ... contain in an essential and unique way a 'likeness' to God which is the basis of the family as a community of human life, as a community of persons united in love".

We are at the heart of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, in some way "imaged" in the family, the first and fundamental expression of the social nature of man (cf. *Letter to Families*, 7). Out of this flows the created reality of marriage itself, the mutual gift of the "I" and "thou" in a communion of persons and the procreation of children. So the truth of the family is already inherent in the truth of the person, created in the image and likeness of the Triune God.

### The Truth About the Family

I have already referred to false attitudes concerning the family which emerged during this Year of the Family, even a mentality of hostility to the family. To this we must calmly and confidently respond with the truth about the family.

First, we must affirm strongly, at every level, that the family is founded on marriage, that this communion of persons is the basis of the family as a good willed by God himself. The Second Vatican Council insisted that, amidst all changes and social transformations, the identity of the family must be protected (*Gaudium et Spes*, 48). We have to proclaim the good

news that the family is not a prison, but it is a *good* for husbands and wives, for children and for society as a whole. It is the place where people can realize their potential and find true freedom and happiness.

The challenges that have emerged in this Year of the Family should spur us on to defend this truth. First of all there is the claim that "no one can define the family". You have all heard this by now, have you not? Behind it is not merely confused thinking and social relativism; but also an ideological attempt to undermine or destroy marriage by making it equal to "free unions"

and, as we recently saw in the Parliament of Europe, even making homosexual relationships into a new kind of "marriage" or "family".

All these challenges highlight the need to define the family as always based on marriage between a man and a woman. On this there can be no compromise, even at meetings and seminars where they try to forbid the word "marriage", as has happened during the Year of the Family.

At times you will hear people, even within the Church, say that our insistence on marriage is not fair to single parents, especially to women who have borne children outside of wedlock. In turn this leads to sympathy for the corollary of never defining the family, summed up in the familiar sentence, "There are many forms of the family today."

At the level of merely describing phenomena it could be said that "the family takes various forms today." There are small families, large families, nuclear families, extended families. The different social mores of peoples and tribes are

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expressed in a variety of often complex family relationships. But this description of phenomena must never be allowed to slide into ambiguity, so as to destroy the truth that a binding marriage is always the source of the family. Even when marriage has been broken by death, divorce or separation, the reality and the identity of the family after that disaster is derived from the marriage which established that family.

We must therefore insist that ambiguities such as "many forms of the family" be strictly qualified with words such as "always based on marriage between a man and a woman". Only then can we avoid falling into the ideological trap which would make a "family" out of a "household" consisting of two men and a cat, or an old lady and her dogs, or young people sharing an apartment, or an unmarried couple living together.

### Recent Positive Developments

However, we should be encouraged in maintaining the truth of the natural institution of the family by some recent developments.

The social disaster which is developing in many nations is largely the fruit of the liberal Western secularist ideology. Everything is tolerated...

At the Cairo Conference, the Islamic nations were offended by a phrase inserted in the draft final document: "marriage and other unions". They insisted that the words "other unions" be removed to avoid any hint that "other unions", such as cohabitation or homosexual relationships, could ever be equal to marriage.

More recently, in Rome, the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue and the Pontifical Council for the Family convened a meeting at which Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems, Jews, Sikhs, various Native Religions and Christians discussed marriage and the family today. Together they produced a final statement. Let me quote from it, because it sends a strong message to those who deny the truth of the family:

"The family is the basic unit of society. Marriage is the foundation of the family. It exists to foster love between a man and a woman and their mutual growth and spiritual fulfillment based on ethical, moral and religious values, enabling procreation, nurturing and an holistic development of children, safeguarding the sanctity of human life in all its dimensions".

Remember that this statement was a consensus between representatives of the world's major religions.

Thirdly, I recall my recent visit to the United Nations, when I addressed the General Assembly at the session marking the Year of the Family. I was greatly impressed by the strong pro-

family statements which came from various nations, indicating, let us hope, a new positive tendency to value and support the rights of the family, because that is what is at stake in society today. Let us now turn to society.

### The Truth About Society

In the light of the truth of the person and the truth of the family we can come to understand the truth of society, which is that society is based upon its natural, essential living cell, the family (cf. *Familiaris Consortio*, 42). This is obvious once we reflect on the structure of society, on how each of us entered society, and how society is re-created again and again through family life. The family is the essential basic community, the natural institution, which carries out the tasks of socializing individuals and perpetuating society.

Today, however, we are challenged by an atomized model of society. This could be described as a collection of independent human beings rattling around, at times colliding, running in and out of "relationships", getting and consuming whatever they want, when they want it. The law in this atomized society gradually becomes a social contract to protect the individual's right to his or her total liberty at all costs. But crime, vice, poverty, personal

and family tragedies, intense human suffering and much loneliness and unhappiness are the consequences of this attempt to build society on a false anthropology which ignores the natural institution of the family.

The social disaster which is developing in many nations is largely the fruit of the liberal Western secularist ideology. Everything is tolerated, so long as it does not interfere with the rights of the individual and dominating concepts such as "privacy", "choice" and "self-realization". But as a natural institution, the family enjoys rights, set out in the Holy See's *Charter of the Rights of the Family*. Let us therefore fight for those rights — and let us work for laws and policies, economic and social, which protect and advance the rights and duties of the family.

These rights of the family as a natural institution are not in conflict with the rights of individuals, properly understood. The members of the family first learn how to relate to one another as members of society. Therefore it is disastrous either to privatize the family, pretending that the state must never legislate on family matters (as if the family did not exist!), or on the other hand to let the state invade the family and take over its role and functions.

The Church maintains a balance between these extremes by insisting on the rights of this natural institution, its freedom and responsibilities in society. But those two dangerous extremes are not really opposed to one another, for what better excuse is there to invade the family if you pretend it does not,



as such, exist? The question of ignoring parental rights when providing contraception or abortion to adolescents is a typical example of this danger. Thanks be to God, the Islamic nations, supported by the Holy See, succeeded in affirming these rights in this context at Cairo.

Children and young people suffer when the selfish secularist mentality strikes at the family. Women are the next victims, especially poor women. The breakdown of families is accelerated through the “plague of divorce” so easily gained today. Nearly thirty years ago, the Second Vatican Council used that expression “plague of divorce” in *Gaudium et Spes*, 47. How much worse the situation is today!

The Church is deeply concerned about the suffering of women and children and actively involved in meeting their needs. This year the Pontifical Council for the Family brings to a conclusion a three-year cycle of meetings and work on the rights and welfare of the child. We held a meeting in Rome on the rights of the child, a meeting in Bangkok on the exploitation of children through prostitution and pornography, a meeting in Manila on child labor, a meeting in Barcelona on adoption and finally, last July, a meeting in Rio de Janeiro on street children. A book will be published including the papers and findings of these meetings on the child.

Next year, we will continue our work for women, a task which we already commenced this year when the wife and mother was the theme of the plenary meeting of members of the Pontifical Council, made up mainly of a group of thirty member couples chosen from all the continents of the world. Now I wish to say something about women and children in the context of the family, the heart of the civilization of love.

### **Wives and Mothers— Bearers of the Civilization of Love**

Mothers play a vital role in the process of civilizing their children, and, even in some cases, their own husbands! Mothers, wives, women of the Church, you are the bearers of the civilization of love! The babe in your arms, the little ones who cling to you and gather around you, these are called to be tomorrow’s civilization of love. That questioning child, the teenager seeking his or her identity and asking for affirmation, they already stand on the threshold of that civilization. But what will it be — a civilization of life and love or a civilization of death and hatred? The decision is not only theirs to make tomorrow — it is also largely yours to make, here and now.

Meeting the vast multitudes of families crowded into St. Peter’s Square on October 9th, the largest single celebration of the whole Year of the Family, the Holy Father John Paul II, said to the family “You are ‘*gaudium et spes*’, ‘joy and hope!’” But the Pope of the Family challenges us with these encouraging words. He well understands that the crucial direction that civilization will take depends on parents more than anyone else in this world. Parents must be the primary educators for a true civilization of love.



Archbishop Justin Rigali and Cardinal Lopez Trujillo  
at WFF Conference

### **Education for Love**

An important part of this task is educating your children for love, teaching them to care for others; about love as self-giving, according to the Gospel of Christ.

Each child has to be taught the values of self-sacrifice, and the best school for this is a family based on marriage where husband and wife put this into practice. Each child needs to learn to reverence and welcome new life. This is only possible when the good news of *Humanae Vitae* is lived, when love means openness to life, generous cooperation with the Creator. Each child needs to become self-disciplined, learned best from parents who practice periodic continence, who moderate the use of luxuries avoiding the pitfalls of consumerism, who use television with prudence. Moreover, each child needs to become tender and compassionate towards others, and that is so easy when he or she sees parents who cherish each other, who communicate, who share their lives as “one flesh”. This education for love learned in the true “school of the virtues” is, therefore, the key to resolving the problem of the misuse of human sexuality. Often that is the root cause of marriage breakdown and much personal suffering.

Today, amidst grave threats to purity, we need to educate our children in the family very carefully in sexual matters. In *Familiaris Consortio*, 37, Pope John Paul II teaches that, because they are the primary educators, parents have the right



and duty to carry out this task, which especially builds up a strong civilization of love. Never surrender that right and duty to others. Try to carry it out responsibly, positively and wisely.

### **Towards Beijing**

Next year, in Beijing, the United Nations will hold a great international meeting on women. It is most important that this meeting should give a voice to all the women of the world, not just to Western pressure groups or certain ideological factions, but to the silent majority of women, especially the wives and mothers. These are the women who can find strength and liberation in their femininity, in their maternity, in their conjugal love.

I hope that some of you will be at that meeting and that all of you will take a concerned interest in it. Especially within the family, women do play a key role in social and economic development. As citizens, they are meant to play a major role in society. But let them never be reduced to instruments of ideologies or political programs. They are not engaged in perpetual conflict with men, nor do they gain anything by seeking vengeance for crimes which weak or corrupt men commit against them.

In the civilization of love, women are raised, through grace, above hurts and human failures. They can be freed from the past. They are called and gifted as persons created in the image of God, bearing his mission to heal and build, working

as partners with men. So often, like Mary herself, they offer unique consolation and hope amidst men's fears. So we must work and pray that, at Beijing in 1995, women who believe in the civilization of love will do something beautiful for all women, men, and children — for the family.

### **The Role of Women**

Let me therefore conclude by clarifying the particular contribution women can make in building the civilization of love, through the family. We have reflected on the humanizing role in society which wives and mothers exercise through society's basic living cell. But all women, by their very femininity play a special civilizing role in society.

I stress femininity, which the Holy Father has developed in his magnificent encyclical on women, *Mulieris Dignitatem*. Femininity includes the subtlety, the wisdom, the sensitivity, the gentle healing power of women. It is your strength, women of the Church — your femininity. Do not let anyone take this gift from you. It is so much stronger than sad attempts to imitate men, which often degenerates into absorbing the worst male weaknesses and imperfections.

Through your femininity you are called to play a deeper role in society and in the Church. It is a civilizing, humanizing, socializing role — which is your calling and mission as women, your place in God's plan.

May he bless you as you take up this task once more.

*Special gifts to Women for Faith & Family*

*In Memoriam*



*The Rev. Paul Quay, SJ, from James & Helen Hitchcock  
and from Les and Susan Benofy*

*Verna Murphy, from Gloria P. Cook*

*The Rev. Daniel M. Lynch, from Clare G. Lynch*

*All aborted children, from Lucille C. Syrjamäki*

*Philip Thomas, from Lee and Kelly Hull, and the James Hitchcock family*



*Requiescant in pace, et lux perpetua luceat eis.*



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## **Messages from Our Bishops** **for the Tenth Annual Conference of Women for Faith & Family** **November 4—6, 1994**

*The Apostolic Blessing of Pope John Paul II was extended to Women for Faith & Family by Cardinal Trujillo during the annual conference. We are pleased to share with Voices readers the messages sent to us by our bishops.*

TO OUR DEAR FRIENDS OF WOMEN FOR FAITH & FAMILY ...

Grace and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ to all of you assembled for the Tenth Annual Women for Faith and Family Conference celebrating the International Year of the Family.

In his message on the occasion of the World Day of Peace in January of this year, His Holiness Pope John Paul II said, "The family, as the fundamental and essential educating community, is the privileged means for transmitting the religious and cultural values which help the person to acquire his or her own identity. Founded on love and open to the gift of life, the family contains in itself the very future of society...." The continuing struggle to build communities of faith and love within families is thus so vitally important.

With faith in God, let us entrust all families to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus and of the Church, and to Saint Joseph, protector of the Holy Family.

I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will enliven each one of us to a greater depth of commitment to our families, physical and spiritual.

Sincerely yours,  
**Most Reverend Justin Rigali, Archbishop of St. Louis**

May I take this opportunity to extend my sincere greetings to all who have gathered at the Tenth Annual Women for Faith and Family Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

I am particularly pleased to learn that you have chosen to focus your Conference on the International Year of the Family. Like you, I have been deeply disturbed and saddened by the current assault on the family, clearly evidenced at the recent hearings surrounding the conference in Cairo. I can think of no better time than now to honor, celebrate and extol the virtues, sacredness and holiness of the family.

That you have chosen to do this is heartening indeed. Your commitment to our faith continues to be a great source of inspiration to me.

I pray that God's special graces and blessings be upon all of you, particularly during your conference in St. Louis.

Faithfully in Christ,  
**John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York**

As the Women for Faith & Family Conference approaches, I wish to extend to you and all the participants my sincerest congratulations on the Tenth Anniversary of the Conference and my prayerful best wishes.

Women for Faith & Family is rapidly growing as an important and credible voice for the countless millions of Catholic women in the United States who by their loyalty to the teachings of the Church are the strength of the Church.

In this "International Year of the Family," it is fitting that your annual conference center on the Year of the Family. "As the family goes, so goes the world," Pope John Paul II told us. Though the family is essential to the life of our world, of our nation, of our Christian civilization, there are many people bent on destroying it. Women for Faith & Family, on the other hand, is one of the strong forces to defend and build up this sacred gift of God — the family.

You are true witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to His Church. May God continue to grant you and all in Women for Faith & Family an abundance of His graces and may Mary our Mother always protect you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
**Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia**



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Let me take this opportunity to greet you and through you to greet all of the participants in the tenth annual Women for Faith and Family Conference. This convocation is a splendid opportunity to reaffirm collectively and individually the central importance of family as the most basic building block of society. Faith illiteracy, the disintegration of the family, the destruction of thousands of unborn lives, are but a few of the crises which affect every one of us who profess to be people of faith. But, these crises can be overcome through the good works and example of people of faith like yourselves. The good works accomplished by Women for Faith and Family are having a positive influence on our society.

Be assured of my prayers for you and all who participate in this year's conference.

Wishing you a successful convocation and asking God to bless you and your families, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston**

May I take this opportunity to share with you my prayers and best wishes as you celebrate your tenth annual Women for Faith and Family Conference in this International Year of the Family.

As I said in my Pastoral Letter on the Family:

Family life is the bedrock upon which our Church and society rest. It must be the source of strength for individuals, the model of faith in God, the training ground for values and the sign of what love is, and the inspiration for priestly and religious vocations. Families are both the haven and hope for the future.

I trust that this conference will be a wonderful opportunity for all of you to come together and be enriched in faith.

Please be assured of my support and encouragement for each of you as you carry on the great work of the family.

Asking the Lord's blessings upon you and all of your efforts, and with every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Roger Cardinal Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles**

Through these lines I wish to salute Women for Faith and Family on the occasion of their Tenth Anniversary Conference. May He, who is the way, the truth and the life, make his presence felt in your deliberations.

I admire Women for Faith and Family for their stand and commitment on behalf of the Christian family, and I encourage you to continue your strong determination to defend and promote this institution which is fundamental for a healthy society and a vibrant Church.

With my prayers and blessing, I remain

Faithfully yours in the Lord,

**Most Rev. David Arias, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark**

Greetings from Indianapolis!

Although my schedule does not permit me to be present for the Tenth Anniversary Conference, allow me to convey my personal greetings and support.

As we celebrate the International Year of the Family, we recall our basic belief in the sanctity of the family. In and through the family, God our Creator shares the wonderful gift of human life as well as the precious treasure of our Catholic Faith. So many of the critical problems facing our American society can be solved through dedicated, close knit families rooted in Faith and love for God.

As you explore the role of the family in society today may God give you wisdom, understanding, and compassion. Pray with me that, through solid Catholic families, young people will hear and respond to God's call to the priesthood and religious life.

Bestowing on you my own humble blessing and prayerful support, I am,

Sincerely in the Holy Family,

**Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, Archbishop of Indianapolis**



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I am very happy to hear of the 10th anniversary conference of Women for Faith and Family. What a wonderful and valuable gift you are to the Church in these days. I am sure that every bishop who knows you is encouraged by your support and your fidelity to the Church. What a wonderful gift from God you are in the circumstances of our time.

May God give you peace and every blessing.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap, Bishop of Rapid City**

It is my great pleasure and honor to offer to you my prayers, my constant and continuing support and my deep gratitude for your active faith and the good example you offer by your fidelity to our Most Holy Father and his brother Bishops.

In our present age the focus of this year's conference on the International Year of the Family offers you another grace-filled opportunity to imitate our Blessed Mother as she so beautifully cooperated with the grace offered her to submit to the will of the Father and to follow our Lord in his redemptive work, all at the service of the promptings of the Holy Spirit in her life.

While I regret that my schedule does not allow me to personally participate in your Conference, please know that all of you hold a special place in my daily thoughts and prayers and you shall continue to have my whole-hearted and grateful support.

Asking God's abundant blessings for you and entrusting you to the maternal care and guidance of our Blessed Mother, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, DD, JCD, Bishop of Rockford**

Thank you very much for your kind and informative letter of August 15, 1994 regarding the upcoming Women for Faith and Family Conference on November 4-6, 1994. I am confident that this conference will continue to strengthen the resolve of all of those who are endeavoring to protect, defend and strengthen the family unit in our country and world.

Considering the many attacks on the family structure in our media and political system we are especially grateful for the diligent efforts and supreme sacrifices made by your organization to defend the traditional family and promote new ways to revitalize this necessary unit of our society.

Be assured of my prayers for the continued success of your most important work. I deeply appreciate the prayers that you offer on my behalf as I strive to serve God's Holy People.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**The Most Rev. Roberto Gonzalez, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston**

Congratulations on ten years of Women for Faith and Family conferences!

I'm certain that this year's event focusing on the International Year of the Family will be a source of inspiration and encouragement to all who attend it.

Though I am unable to join you at the conference this year, you may be assured of my continued prayer for you, your families, and all of the good work done year after year by Women for Faith and Family.

With cordial good wishes, may I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**The Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory, SLD, Bishop of Belleville**

As delegates come together for the Tenth Annual Women for Faith and Family Conference, I assure you of a remembrance in my Masses and prayers. I seek from the Spirit of God for you, gifts of wisdom, faith, and love as you strive to strengthen family life, live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, defend the sacredness of life, proclaim the dignity of the poor, and work to enhance the dignity of women in our Church and society.



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Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has reminded us that the fundamental task of the family is to serve life, "transmitting by procreation, the divine image from person to person" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 28). I am confident that as you pray, study, reflect and discuss family life during this conference that you will grow in holiness and grace, grow in love of the Church, and grow in your desire to continue the presence of the Lord Jesus in our world today.

**Most Rev. Edward D. Head, DD, Bishop of Buffalo**

As the Women for Faith and Family gather for your Tenth Annual Conference, please be assured of my prayerful support for your deliberations. You could not have chosen a more important topic. May God guide and inspire you in your deliberations.

Sincerely in the Lord,  
**Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes, Bishop of Baton Rouge**

I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend to you my best wishes for a successful conference during November 4-6, 1994 in this International Year of the Family. This event should prove to be an unforgettable moment in the history of Women for Faith and Family.

On behalf of the many women whom your organization has touched throughout the years, and as Archbishop of Detroit, I want to thank you for bringing forward the importance of women and the impact their faith has on the members of their families.

Let us pray together for the inspiration and guidance of Mary to deepen faith in all women for generations to come.

With God's blessings and prayerful wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,  
**The Most Rev. Adam J. Maida, Archbishop of Detroit**

I am happy to have the privilege of greeting the participants in the tenth anniversary conference of Women for Faith and Family. The fact that it takes place within The International Year of the Family makes your own special dedication to family values and to the foundational importance of our faith all the more pertinent and vital.

During this year of the family, paradoxically, there continue to be many attacks on family life. They come from so many sources from the media to certain politicians to the philosophers of secular materialism. The Lord always stirs up His people when attacks on the values which He places in every human heart become blatant. I believe that He is stirring you up to give witness and example in our world and to strive with grace and strength for the reestablishment of the values of our faith especially in the area of family life.

I congratulate you on what you have done so far and I am sure that you will profit much from the words of Cardinal Lopez Trujillo and from the teaching of our Holy Father.

Please remember me and the Church of Newark in your prayers as I promise to remember you in mine.

**The Most Rev. Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark**

May I thank you for the notice of the Women for Faith and Family Conference which this year will focus on the International Year of the Family.

I am pleased that the Conference will be honored by the presence of Cardinal Lopez Trujillo. I offer all prayerful good wishes for a successful Conference. I will call it to the attention of our own Family Life Office.

I send my cordial greetings and salutations to the participants in this special 10th Anniversary Conference. Our beloved Catholic women are the heart of the family and strength of the Church. Please God, the experience of the Conference will be for them a reaffirmation and encouragement in their commitment to living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ as our way, our truth and our life.

Devotedly yours in Christ,  
**The Most Rev. Edward A. McCarthy, Archbishop of Miami**



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To all who gather in St. Louis for the Tenth Annual Women for Faith and Family Conference, I send my warm greetings and my best wishes for a successful convocation.

This year's focus on the International Year of the Family is indeed timely and responsive to our Holy Father's ongoing concern for the family. Animated by a special sense of urgency, Pope John Paul has tirelessly directed his energies over this past year in a "battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world" for the very survival of the family which, he says, is "at the center of the struggle between good and evil." In support of this crusade and seeing the future of civilization itself at stake, he has called for an outpouring of "prayer by the family, prayer for the family and prayer with the family" to counter today's unrelenting attack upon the fundamental unit of all human society.

To this end, my prayers will join yours during the days of your Convention. Again, my fond greetings to all and my blessing.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Most Reverend Norman F. McFarland, Bishop of Orange**

All the bishops and the whole of the Church in the United States owe you a great debt of gratitude for the way you have kept before our eyes the true oasis of faith, the Church, midst the hundreds of mirages that continually emerge to confuse members of the Church. May the Lord continue to bless all of you personally, and your organization, Women for Faith and Family.

**Bishop John R. Sheets, SJ**  
**Auxiliary Bishop of Fort Wayne/South Bend**

A tenth anniversary is always a special occasion — even more so in our day when perseverance and longevity are in short supply! My congratulations accompany my prayers for you as you celebrate this milestone during your reunion on November 4-6.

Your impressive roster of speakers, coupled with the solid substance of your message, should draw a deservedly large attendance to this event

Asking God's blessing on the family of Women for Faith and Family, and upon all your endeavors, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
**The Most Rev. James S. Sullivan, Bishop of Fargo**

It is a great joy for me to send to you, and through you, to your membership a particular word of greeting on the occasion of the 10th Annual Conference of Women for Faith and Family. It is appropriate, indeed, that this conference should be celebrated during the International Year of the Family, since it is impossible, in my estimation, to exaggerate the excellent work that your organization has done and continues to do for the strengthening of Catholic family life, not only in our country, but throughout the world. The distinguished roster of speakers at your 10th Anniversary Conference makes my inability to attend this year a source of the most profound regret. However, my prayers and good wishes are with you and the membership as you start the second decade of ardent and valorous labor for the cause of Christ and His Church, indeed, for the cause of genuine femininity and for the cause of Catholic family life.

The presence of His Eminence, Cardinal Trujillo and Archbishops Curtiss and Rigali, indicate to me and to all, the close collaboration that Women for Faith and Family continues to maintain with the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church as it continues its commitment to the magisterial teaching of Christ's Mystical Body.

In a time of confusion and conflict brought about by distorted ideas of feminine equality, oftentimes confusing such equality with gender interchangeability, your organization, Women for Faith and Family, stands out as a shining beacon in a dark night beset with error and, in some instances, blatant falsehood.

Accompanying this letter are my sentiments of the highest esteem and regard for the work that...Women for Faith and Family are doing. With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,  
**The Most Rev. Fabian W. Bruskewitz, Bishop of Lincoln**



## New Family Sourcebook Planned

### *Marian Feasts, Saints Days, Ordinary Time*

The third in Women for Faith & Family's series of Family Sourcebooks is now being prepared for publication. Scheduled to appear on or about March 25, 1995, the feast of the Annunciation, the new Sourcebook will include Marian feasts not included in the two earlier books; as well as feasts and liturgical observances during Ordinary Time, the long "green" period between Pentecost and Advent.

Like the other Sourcebooks, the new book will give historical background of Catholic customs, seasonal hymns and prayers, and suggestions for observance by families. There will be classic Catholic devotions, as well as seasonal crafts for children.

Pre-publication — \$6.; regular — \$7.50 (postage included). For further details or to order, contact WFF office, PO Box 8326, St. Louis, MO 63132 — (phone and FAX, 314 863-8385)

Copies of ADVENT/CHRISTMAS, and LENT/EASTER Family Sourcebooks are available for a donation of \$6.00, each, postpaid. (Special quantity discounts for 10 or more copies to one address.)

## WFF Online

As reported in previous issues of *Voices*, Women for Faith & Family is a member of the Catholic Resource Network (CRNET).

Recent additions to the Marriage and Family Forum, hosted by WFF, include monthly newsletters from Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council. These two organizations, operating primarily from an evangelical Protestant perspective, provide valuable information on current issues relating to the family in society. The October issue of the Focus on the Family Newsletter, for example, contains an analysis of the Cairo conference, with strong praise for the efforts of the Vatican, and a

detailed poll on American views of abortion.

Subscribers to CRNET were able to obtain information on the recent Cairo Conference on Population which was not readily available in the mainstream press. The files in the Current Issues Library on this topic include excerpts from the UN draft plan, full texts of statements by Vatican officials, Mother Teresa's statement to the conference, a letter from Pope John Paul II to President Clinton, and statements by various Catholic organizations, including a news release from WFF. All these files are available to download to your own computer. We look forward to similar coverage of the UN Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

A new Index to Resources and Services lists over 300 entries of items available on CRNET along with the keystrokes necessary to access these items, starting from the main menu. This new Index can be accessed with the "I" command from the main menu.

In the spring full connection with the Internet is expected for CRNET. This will mean that: (1) In addition to being able to send Internet mail, CRNET members will be able to log onto the Internet itself and access materials at any Internet site from CRNET; (2) CRNET members who already

have local Internet connections (this includes most university students) will be able to log onto CRNET from the Internet. (Eliminating long distance charges); (3) Overseas members will be able to connect with CRNET without paying long distance charges, making CRNET international as was originally intended.

Voices readers who are CRNET members can contact WFF by sending an e-mail message to Susan Benofy.

To connect with CRNET, set your modem to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity (speed up to 14,400 bps) and dial 1-703-791-4336. You can either browse on-line or join immediately, by following on-screen instructions.





## Evangelium Vitae...

A new encyclical on human life is being prepared and will be released very soon. Its imminent release was announced by Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo at the Family Congress in Rome last October.

It is said that the new encyclical will concentrate on correcting problems stemming from a distorted understanding of the meaning of human life. The new encyclical's title, *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) suggests that it will expand and amplify Catholic teaching on contemporary problems such as abortion and related life issues.

*Evangelium Vitae* might be considered a "companion piece" to *Veritatis Splendor*, issued in 1993, which effectively critiqued certain contemporary theologies which have led to moral confusion and loss of faith. Both *Veritatis Splendor* and *Evangelium Vitae* are also related to the Catechism for the Catholic Church itself. Pope John Paul II noted that the release of *Veritatis Splendor* was originally planned to coincide with the appearance of the Catechism; but because of problems with the translation, the English Catechism was not released until June, 1994.

**To our readers—**

***Thank you for all your prayers, letters of encouragement and all your gifts to us this year — and for the past decade. We think you will agree that our efforts have been effective and useful to Catholic women and families — and to the Church. As we enter a new decade of service to you and to the Church, we find the need for our work is expanding faster than our resources. We depend entirely on your generosity for everything we do, as you know. We hope you will continue your financial support so that we can continue to work effectively for you.***

***We ask especially that you remember Women for Faith & Family in your prayers — and we pray that may God richly bless you during the coming year.***

***Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,  
The Staff of Women for Faith & Family***

## Tape Order Form

### # tapes

- \_\_\_\_\_ 194 — Cardinal Lopez Trujillo : Keynote Address — *The Family Civilization of Love*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 294 — Side 1 Homily at Mass (Saturday) Cardinal Lopez Trujillo  
          — Side 2 Homily at Mass (Sunday) Archbishop Elden Curtiss
- \_\_\_\_\_ 394 — Helen Hull Hitchcock: *The Domestic Church — The Covenant and The Cross*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 494 — Janine Langan: *Transmission of Our Catholic Heritage*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 594 — James Hitchcock: *The Making of the Modern Family*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 694 — Nancy Valko: *Families in Crisis — How Social Pathologies Damage the Family*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 794 — Ralph McInerney: Banquet Address — *Family Resemblances*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 894 — Tim Kelly: *The Cairo Conference: Fact vs. Fiction*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 994 — Archbishop Elden Curtiss: *Parents and Parishes: Collaborating for the Moral Education of Youth*

Price: \$4.00 per tape, set of all 10, \$40.  
Shipping included.

Make checks payable to  
**Women for Faith & Family,**  
PO Box 8326, St. Louis, MO 63132

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*If you signed the Affirmation for Catholic Women, your name was on the list presented to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II in Rome on October 15.  
The letter of thanks from the Holy See is truly for every Catholic woman whose name was included. It gives us great joy to reproduce it for you here.*



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

From the Vatican, October 25, 1994

Dear Mrs. Hitchcock,

The Holy Father asked me to thank you for the many messages of support for the Church's teaching which you sent to him from Catholic women in the United States. He appreciates your efforts to promote a deeper understanding of the authentic vocation and mission of women in the light of our faith in Christ.

His Holiness prays that you and your associates will be confirmed in your witness to the sacredness of life, the sublime dignity of womanhood and the irreplaceable role of the family in society. Invoking God's abundant graces upon you and your families, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

Sincerely yours,

Monsignor L. Sandri  
Assessor



**voices**

Women for Faith & Family  
P.O. Box 8326, St. Louis, MO 63132

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