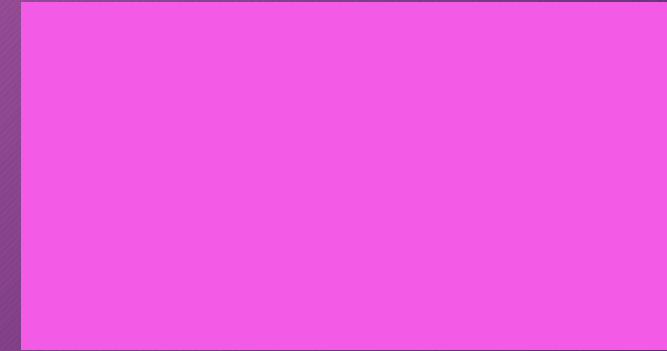


Sexuality, Marriage, and Other Issues



Eros and Romantic Love

- Catholic moral thought: Not about what you can and cannot do. Rather, it is about the good life.
- Happiness and Beauty
- The School of Positive Psychology

Some Theology of Romantic Love

- Genuine vs. Pseudo (false) Romantic Love
- Self-love: I love this for what it does for me



Genuine Romantic Love

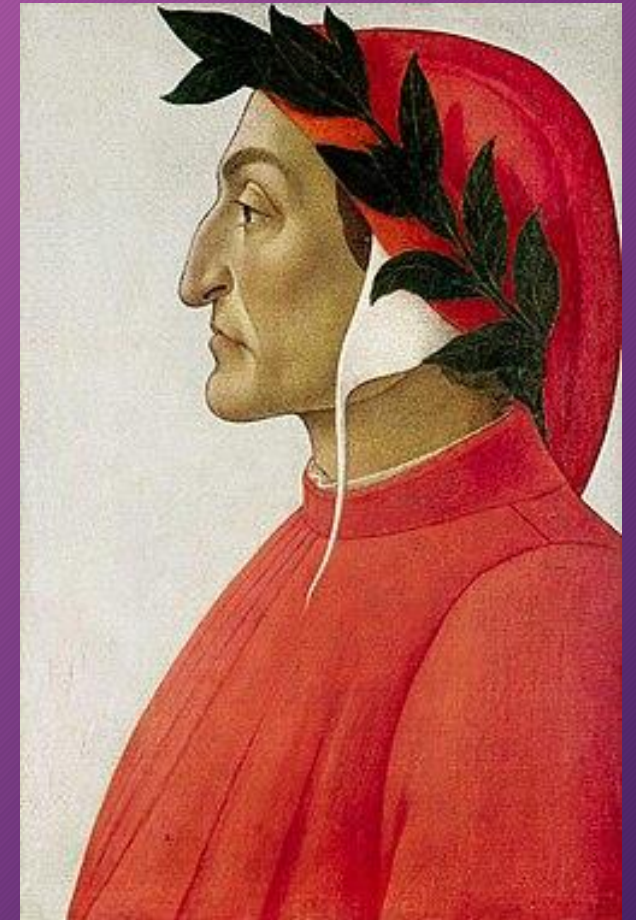
One is given a partial sharing in the way God sees the beloved.

St. Augustine

“O You Omnipotent Good, you care for every one of us as if you care for him only, and so for all as if they were but one!”

Dante:

I tell you when she appeared from any direction, the hope of her admirable greeting abolished in me all enmity, and I was possessed by a flame of charity which compelled me to forgive anyone who had done me an offence; and if anyone had asked me a question about anything, I should have said only Love! with a countenance full of humility.'



God looks upon us with Rose colored glasses

- He sees us in all our eschatological perfection, but he sees us as we are now as well.
- The person in love is given a partial sharing in the vision of the glory of the other, but at the same time, he or she is returned to “reality”, and we see the beloved in his/her imperfection as well.



Like the Transfiguration



Marriage as a sharing in the paschal mystery

- Holiness is always a matter of “leaving behind” the familiar and the comfortable.
- Abraham called to leave the land of Ur
- Moses and the Israelites called to leave Egypt with its Pantheon of false gods.
- Jesus leaves this world to go to the Father. In doing so, he consecrates himself (Jn 17)—sets himself apart.
- In matrimony, the couple are called to leave behind a world closed in on itself, the world of their own independence, to become a larger reality, the one flesh union of their marriage.

Romantic Love and Sexual Union

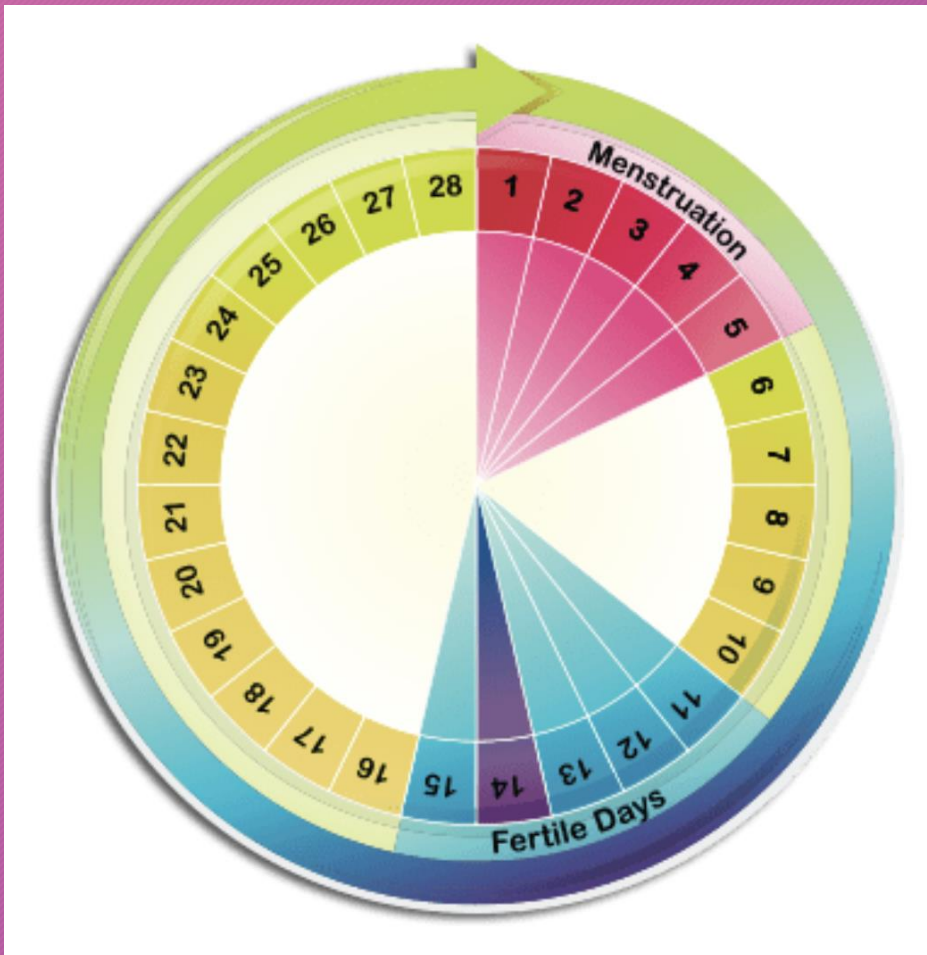
- Sexual union between husband and wife is holy (a grace meriting act, according to St. Thomas Aquinas).

Marriage is a community of Love (union) and Life (procreation).

Love is both 1) unitive and 2) effusive.



Contraception and Natural Family Planning



Divorce Rate for NFP couples: < 4%

The Moral Difference



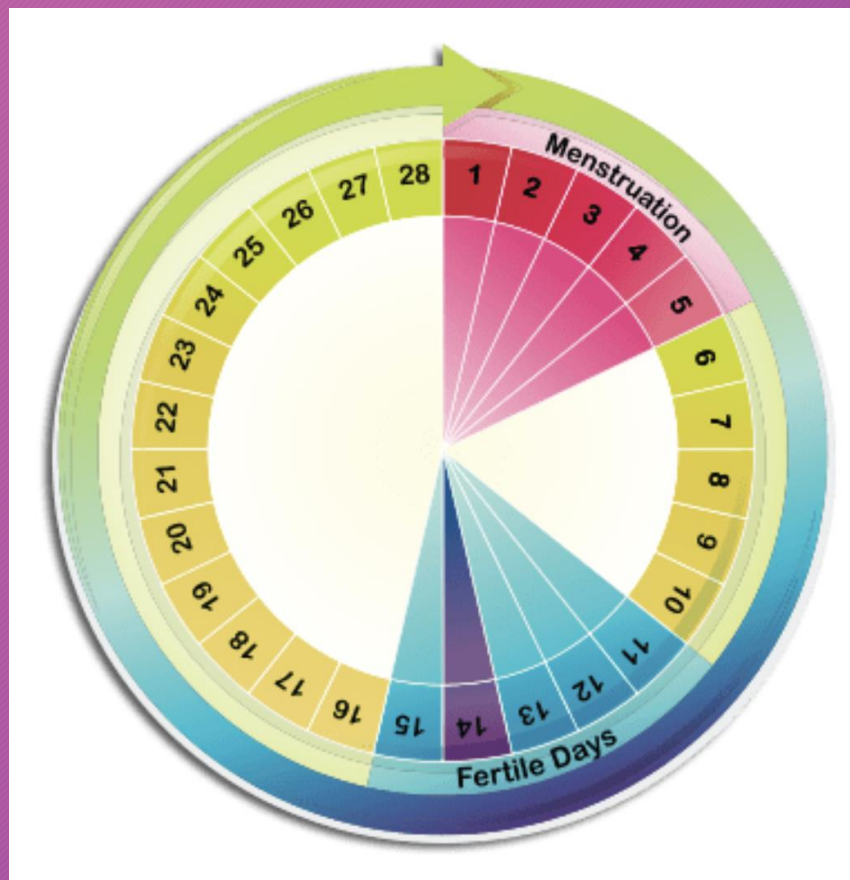
Moral Difference



Contraception

1. Consider having sex (as a genuine expression of married love)
2. Project a possible baby as a consequence of their act of intercourse
3. a) choose to have sex, and b) take steps to prevent that possible baby from becoming an actual baby.

Fertility Cycle



NFP

1. Consider having sex (as a genuine expression of married love)
2. Project a possible baby as a consequence of their act of intercourse.
3. Choose not to have sex (for a period of time, until the ovulation phase ends).