
THM 544: MARRIAGE *and* HUMAN SEXUALITY
MIDTERM EXAMINATION, 2015

To be returned by Monday, October 26

In your answers, when you refer to numbered sections of Catholic Teaching Documents (canons, encyclicals, the *Catechism*, etc.) DO NOT simply cut and paste the text into your answer.

SUMMARIZE ACCURATELY what the relevant text says, just as you would in any real pastoral situation. Please answer all parts of all three questions

1. Having read and discussed the John Jay Study, please respond to the following assertions (that reappear with depressing regularity in the secular media):

a) The problem of clerical child abuse could be solved by allowing Roman Catholic priests to marry.

b) The problem of clerical child abuse in the Roman Catholic Church could be solved by forbidding the ordination of anyone with a homosexual orientation.

2. A 24 year old man comes to see you, his parish priest. He confides to you that his sexual orientation is towards other males. He has been told that the Catholic Church teaches that having a homosexual orientation is a “disorder”, and for this reason he is considering leaving the Church.

What do you tell him? Please include a broad discussion of what the Church means by “disordered” in official teaching documents, especially the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

3. A 23 year old young woman who is a member of the parish where you are pastor has recently become engaged, and has asked to see you. During your meeting with her she explains that she recently attended a lecture on Catholic sexual ethics in “another parish” by a priest who teaches theology at a Catholic institution of higher learning. The priest spent a significant of time criticizing the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, claiming that it had “wrecked the life of many Catholic married couples” because it proposed “impossible and inhuman goals”. The lecturer went on to claim that *Humanae Vitae* cannot be regarded as part of the authentic teaching magisterium of the Catholic Church because “it was not accepted by the people of God”; and furthermore that “the Catholic Church has moved on” from the moral norms proposed in the encyclical.

She is concerned that the opinions expressed by this priest may not be correct.

What do you tell her?
