

THE CATHOLIC PERCEPTION ON REPRODUCTION AND ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE THERAPY

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ABSTRACT

Roman Catholic Church opposes some kinds of ART and artificial contraception if they separate the procreative goal of marital sex from the goal of uniting married couples. The Roman Catholic Church permits the use of a small number of reproductive technologies and contraceptive methods like natural family planning which involves charting ovulation times. The church allows other forms of reproductive technologies that allow conception to take place from normative sexual intercourse such as a fertility lubricant. Pope Benedict XVI has publicly re-emphasized the Catholic Church's opposition to in vitro fertilization (IVF) claiming it replaces love between a husband and wife. In addition, the church opposes IVF because it might cause disposal of embryos; Catholics believe an embryo is an individual with a soul who must be treated as such.

This particular doctrine often expounded by the magisterium of the Church is based on the inseparable connection established by God which man on his own initiative may not break between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act. The reason is that the fundamental nature of the marriage act while uniting husband and wife in the closest intimacy also renders them capable of generating new life and this as a result of laws written into the actual nature of man and of woman. And if each of these essential qualities the unitive and the procreative is preserved the use of marriage fully retains its sense of true mutual love and its ordination to the supreme responsibility of parenthood to which man is called. We believe that our contemporaries are particularly capable of seeing that this teaching is in harmony with human reason.

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