



TASTE Reflection Questions
October 10, 2024

A Study of Humanae Vitae and Where We are Today

Bill Keimig

*And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age. ~ Matthew 28:20*



PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY QUESTIONS ON PAGE ONE ARE FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most interesting about this talk?

2. Bill Keimig used the parable of the Prodigal Son to highlight the vast difference between:
 - how the son felt early in the story when he thought he had the **RIGHT** to his inheritance now... to
 - when he realized that he was **NOT WORTHY** to even be called a son and simply wanted to be treated as a servant.
 - How does this parable remind us that “all is a gift” and “nothing is a right”?
 - In considering our own spirituality, what is the gift that God offers us? How should we respond?

3. Bill Keimig said:
 - The most powerful thing a human being can do is to accept God the Father’s invitation to save our soul.
 - The next most powerful thing we can do after that is in some way to influence someone else’s salvation.
 - The next most powerful thing we can do after that is to bring forth the human life capable of Salvation.
 - How do you feel about the answers to these questions?
 - If you are in agreement with it, how does understanding these priorities affect the way you live now?

4. Bill Keimig talked about God’s purpose for our activities and if we make it all about pleasure, we distort it. The purpose of **SLEEP** is to get rest and to be rejuvenated. However, if we sleep too much for pleasure, it becomes a sin (sloth). The purpose of **EATING** is to get nutrition for energy. However, if we eat too much for pleasure, it becomes a sin (gluttony). The purpose of **SEX** is for bonding (unitive) and babies (procreative).
 - What is the impact of removing bonding from sex? Or the impact of removing babies from sex?
 - How are these acts distortions from God’s purpose? What sins are committed in each case?
 - What additional gifts from God come to mind which can be distorted into sin?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR SELF REFLECTION

5. Bill Keimig reminded us that we each have a **PURPOSE** and while we might have a preference on how we can “**GIFT**” ourselves to others, God has a “specific purpose” for each of us. If heaven is our **GOAL** (purpose in life), then Church **DOCTRINE** helps to keep us on the path to this goal as an enabler, not an impediment.

- What does Ephesians 2:10 mean to you? (For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.)
- How did the river analogy help us understand how river banks can be seen either as an impediment or enabler depending on the goal? How does this relate to our purpose in life and goal to get to heaven most reliably and efficiently?

6. Bill Keimig said that the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony have much in common. They are both **SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE** where we fulfill our vocation to build the kingdom through gift of self. Just like a priest is a man under authority, those who are married are as well. And just as a priest is called to lead his flock (no matter where and how many), married couples are called to lead their children. Additionally, being a priest or being married are similar to being in the **MILITARY** in that they give up rights and are driven by duty.

- How do you feel about the connection between Marriage and Priesthood/Military Service?
- Does any of this apply to singles or widows? If so, how?
- Hint: What does it mean to you that Jesus calls himself BOTH a priest and a bridegroom?

7. As usual, Bill Keimig gave us an extensive handout packed with great examples.

- If you have taken the opportunity to review the handout, is there something that you found of particular interest?

8. Bill Keimig shared some statistics about marriage. The overall divorce rate is 50%. Even amongst Catholics, it is still 50%. Amongst those who cohabitation before marriage, it is much worse at 75%. In contrast, those who practice NFP have a divorce rate at only 2%.

- Did any of these statistics surprise you?
- Why do you think there is such a significant difference in divorce rates between those cohabitating and those who practice NFP?
- What might you want to do with this understanding?

9. Saint John Paul II coined the phrase “**THE LAW OF THE GIFT**” which means we are not made for ourselves, but to give ourselves away. God is a family of persons and each member of the Trinity does not focus on Himself, but rather pours out His love to the others. Being made in His image, we find our joy, meaning, and purpose in life by doing the same. In short, we find ourselves by self gift only.

- What do we find when we focus on having, getting, or wanting?
- In contrast, what do we find when we focus on loving, giving, and sacrificing?
- What is meant by “All is a gift and nothing is a right”?

