

We have written The Message of the Conference on “Demography and The Culture of Relationship between Couples”

Motto:

“The demographic crisis can only be solved by overcoming the crisis in family life”

A system of values for couple relationships, marriage and family life needs to be articulated, which protects the people from harm and improves physical and mental health and the harmonious development of individuals and their communities. For such a system of values to emerge it first needs a clear articulation. In recent decades true and false values have become completely mixed up. The individual can hardly distinguish the useful from the harmful in all the choices now available.

For decades the traditional family model has been under intense attack in the consumer society. We can say that there is a cultural war against the institutions of marriage and the family. The three main front lines of this attack have been the spread of free love, homosexual marriage, and the gender or queer theory. Additional new front lines are being formed, all of them targeting sexuality. Those political and economic powers intent on the disintegration of the family recognized that the family can best be torn apart by influencing people's sexual behaviour. As a result of the success of their approach, free love partnerships are commonplace and usual and the institution of marriage and family has weakened.

If we do not figure out how to outmaneuver these attacks and do not supplant them, we will have little chance to resolve the demographic crisis, to reduce the disintegration of families, and to fight off harmful selfishness and mental illness in a humane and effective way.

The demographic crisis is a symptom of the crisis in the relations between the sexes in family life, so, in order to ease the demographic crisis, we must understand and resolve this crisis, or else the very existence of society is in danger.

It is worrying that countries affected by the demographic crises are not trying to curb free sexuality. Without finding ways to leave this behind and restore mutual loyalty and fidelity there is no solution to the demographic crisis. Couples firm in their commitment, in marriage, have the home that welcomes children. Without it they cannot plan. Free sex fundamentally violates human dignity, especially that of women, objectifies women, increases the likelihood of mental and many other illnesses such as depression, narcissism, sexually transmitted illnesses, main reason of abortion and loneliness, impairs the healthy development of children and decreases fertility. In addition, it makes the individual - especially the man -, selfish, reduces the chance of marriage, postpone marriage, destroys the quality, harmony and stability of marriage and family. It also poses a particular risk to the health and well-being of the conceived child.

Nowadays though sexuality without commitment has become widely accepted, the majority of people are not aware of the later consequences of different types of couple relationships and

lifestyles. Thus, the level of uncivilized behaviour and selfishness in the couple relationship, as well as the suppression of morality in this area has alarming effects on children, women and communities. Politicians, social scientists and church leaders have the duty to present this case for the public good. They cannot allow the future of our nation and people's physical and mental health and their vital human relationships to be destroyed by ignorance.

In addition, in Hungary we are blessed, both by the Fundamental Law and by its corresponding Family Protection Act which, in some extent, protect marriage and the institution of the family. We have yet to figure out how to attract young people to enter and expand the community of faithful families these laws envision.

A three-dimensional family policy is therefore needed:

(i) Challenging the obstacles to the development and continuance of good marriages and families, proving the harmful effects of these obstacles to the individual and its communities and proofing by promulgating the massive advantage of the chastity based married family for adults and children in every major dimension of life. These are best achieved through research, school education and the media.

(ii) Build society through a partnership with the social sciences to strengthen culture, according to the Fundamental Law and the Family Protection Act; developing the basic set of “values of belonging” between men and women. This topic needs extensive exploration and research coupled with effective education and dissemination.

(iii) Provision of financial support and material benefits to young spouses and parents.

The Fundamental Law of Hungary protects not only marriage and family but Christian culture as well. Those who sought the disintegration of the family decades ago and continue to seek today realized that there is no need to attack the Churches; it is enough to spread sex without commitment. With this religious worship wanes. Christian culture and sex without commitment are totally incompatible.

Last but not least: in human history advanced cultures have emerged in those societies where pre-marital sexual abstinence was expected from men as well as from women. This abstinence protected women, children, family and, ultimately, society as a whole. It is not an exaggeration to say that it was not civilization that created marriage, but marriage created civilization. When sexual norms were loosened for whatever reason, societies fell apart within three generations. We do not want this to happen to our countries.

The conference also aims to advance a culture of sound relationships between couples through the presentation of some of the best practices available in the United States, Poland, Hungary and Croatia.

Finally, one of the lectures from Poland will present an international convention on the rights of the family.

The Organizers

Budapest, 7 May 2021