

# Review of: "The Gradual Growth of Man in the Freedom of a Child of God"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Article "The Gradual Growth of Man in the Freedom of a Child of God" by Inocent-Maria V. Szaniszló OP is extremely topical and important. It discusses the sensitive issues of sexuality, marriage, partner relationships, contraception and the transmission of life. It analyzes the positions and contributions of several moral theologians, especially from the German and Francophone areas. The article respects the Magisterium of the Catholic Church and contributes to its perception in today's conditions.

The non-acceptance of Paul VI's prophetic encyclical *Humanae vitae* (HV) has led and is leading to numerous unfortunate consequences that have resulted and are resulting in the breakdown of marriages and families, permanent injuries to partners, negative effects on the lives of children, and a serious "demographic winter" in Western societies. "No" to the encyclical HV points to a logical and bitter "fruit" that could have been avoided.

A few suggestions for a more effective impact of the paper:

The abstract should be more focused on the issue that is the subject of the article itself and should not contain what the article does not deal with.

The paper would deserve more attention because of the increasing use of interceptive and contragestative means and because of the push for wider adoption of chemical abortion as an individual method of dealing with pregnancy.

"Planned parenthood" should be replaced by the term "responsible parenthood" as an expression of a different anthropological approach to issues of sexuality and the transmission of life.

The Synods of Bishops that dealt with the family during the pontificate of Pope Francis (2014, 2015) also highlighted the relevance of HV. Their positions were taken up by the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia* (cfr. *Relatio finalis* 2015, 63; *Amoris laetitia*, 222). This, too, would merit mention in the article.

It is a valuable effort of I.-M. V. Szaniszló OP and his contribution to such a delicate issue. Certainly, the line of his contribution does not suit the mentality of today's utilitarian, individualistic and hedonistic man. The article deserves wider popularization. It adds valuable suggestions for individual and communal discernment. It is a contribution for the prevention of dramatic and tragic decisions in the young and for the permanent formation of all others.

