

# Protecting Family Life in Pan America



- Marie T. Hilliard, MS (Maternal Child Health Nursing), MA (Religious Studies), JCL (Canon Lawyer), PhD, RN.
- Director of Bioethics and Public Policy, The National Catholic Bioethics Center

# “Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization” Synod of Bishops, Oct. 2014

- “The first setting in which faith enlightens the human city is the family.” Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei*, The Light of Faith (Vatican City, 2013, 52)



# Diverse cultures even within the Catholic community

- Each with special, sacred gifts, protective of family as ordained by God.
- + and – effects of telecommunication: United States impacts family life throughout Western Hemisphere.

Secular relativism: denigrated sacred principles by which the family life of each of our cultures has been sustained, and even thrived, not only spiritually, but also physically and economically.



# Erosion: Family Unity, Solidarity, Fidelity

- Individualism, self-gratification
- Changing sexual mores
- New pseudo-principles, putting all at risk, especially children.
  - Two parent families no longer norm.
  - Pornography is epidemic
  - Human trafficking, even of children.
  - Sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy the norm.
    - Pseudo-treatments of “safe-sex.”
    - Government “Treatments” accelerate family breakdown.
    - A true “Natural Disaster.”



# The Facts: Some Good News

## Infant Mortality Rates\* 2000

- USA 6.89
- Canada 5.08
- Mexico 21.5
- Central America 26.27
- South America 26.35
- Minus Falkland Islands & French Guiana

## Infant Mortality Rates\* 2010

- USA 6.14
- Canada 4.99
- Mexico 14.7
- Central America 18.36
- South America 18.27
- Minus Falkland Islands & French Guiana

\* 1000 live births



# The Facts: Some Bad News

## % Below Poverty: 2004/5

➤ USA	12.5
➤ Canada	10.8
➤ Mexico	47.2
➤ Peru	58.7
➤ Brazil	22.4
➤ Bolivia	63.1
➤ Chile	13.7*
➤ Guatemala	51.0*
➤ El Salvador	35.2

## % Below Poverty: 2011/12

➤ USA	14.7
➤ Canada	9.4
➤ Mexico	52.3
➤ Peru	25.8
➤ Brazil	9.0
➤ Bolivia	45.0
➤ Chile	14.4
➤ Guatemala	53.7
➤ El Salvador	34.5

\* 2006



# The Facts: Some Bad News: =/<

% of Live Births: Single  
2000/1

➤ USA	33.2
➤ Canada	28.3
➤ Mexico	41.5
➤ Peru	?
➤ Brazil	56.2
➤ Chile	48.3

% of Live Births: Single  
2008/12

➤ USA	41.5
➤ Canada	27.2
➤ Mexico	55.0
➤ Peru	69.0
➤ Brazil	65.8
➤ Chile	69.7



# The Facts: Some Improvement:

## Teen Pregnancy\*: 2000

➤ USA	46
➤ Canada	17
➤ Mexico	77
➤ Peru	67
➤ Brazil	87
➤ El Salvador	100
➤ Guatemala	118
➤ Bolivia	85
➤ Argentina	64

## Teen Pregnancy\*: 2012

➤ USA	31
➤ Canada	14
➤ Mexico	63
➤ Peru	51
➤ Brazil	71
➤ El Salvador	76
➤ Guatemala	97
➤ Bolivia	72
➤ Argentina	54

\* 1000 live births





# The Facts: Reality Check

## Contraception Not the Answer

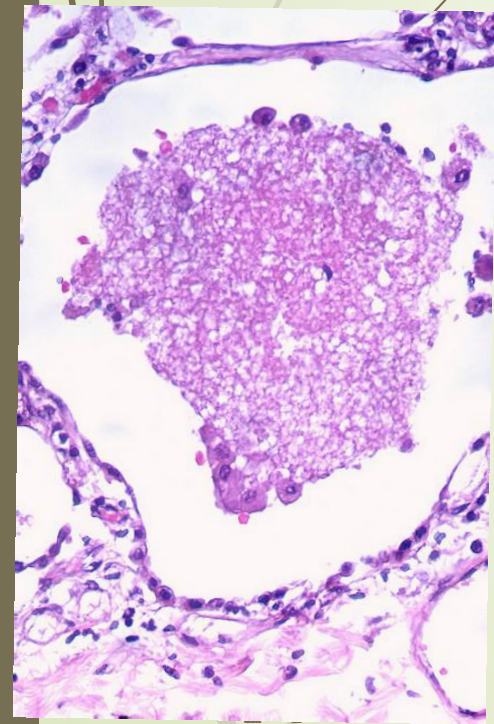
### STD Rates\* 2001

➤ USA: Chlamydia	271.76
➤ USA: Gonorrhea	125.2
➤ USA: Syphilis	11.6
➤ Canada: Chlamydia	161.4
➤ Canada: Gonorrhea	21.8
➤ Canada: Syphilis	0.9

### STD Rates\* 2010/12

➤ USA: Chlamydia:	453.5
➤ USA: Gonorrhea	106.3
➤ USA: Syphilis	23.1
➤ Canada: Chlamydia	277.6
➤ Canada: Gonorrhea	33.4
➤ Canada: Syphilis	5.2

\*100,000



# Nurses & Midwives/1,000 People 2010/11

➤ USA:	9.8	➤ Brazil:	6.4
➤ Canada:	9.3	➤ Chile:	0.1
➤ Mexico:	2.5	➤ Columbia:	0.6
➤ Belize:	2	➤ El Salvador:	0.4
➤ Bolivia:	1	➤ Equator:	2
		➤ Peru:	1.3



## Historical Fact: Health Care is Ministry

- Good Samaritan: “Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”
- “Go and do likewise.”



# History of Health Care

12



- Fabiola: 380 A.D. established a hospital in Rome.
- St. Benedict: 500 A.D. founded the Benedictine nursing order.
- “Hotel-Dieu” of Paris: 660 A.D. founded.
- Hospitallers: 1113 A.D. 1st organized structure for health care delivery.
- Saint Elizabeth Seton’s Sisters of Charity: 1830 A.D. established oldest hospital west of Mississippi.
- Catholic health care: currently largest provider of non-governmental non-profit health care in the United States

## Freedom to Minister: Nurses Jobs Threatened in USA

- ▶ **Toni Lemly: EC refusal in LA hospital** - refused to grant a reasonable accommodation for religious beliefs; instead terminated her full-time position. Four years for justice.
- ▶ **Cenzon-DeCarlo v. Mt. Sinai Hospital**, No. 09-CV-3120 RJD, 2010 WL 169485 (E.D.N.Y., 15 January 2010).
- ▶ **Nassau University Medical Center** – 9 Nurses disciplined for refusing to assist in abortions. Union supported them decision reversed.
- ▶ **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey** – 12 nurses win agreement after told they must assist in abortion.



At the Root of the Societal Problems, and Attach on Religion:  
Breakdown of Family  
Sanctity is Sanity



*The Key  
to  
My Sanity*

▶ “Absorbed and deepened in the family, faith becomes a light capable of illuminating all our relationships in society.” *Lumen Fidei, 54*

