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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALLENGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

SAN DIEGO, Calif.-----Test tube babies and new ways of duplicating humans without parents -- the entire bio-engineering revolution is changing the nature of man and of human nature, warned a priest in the continuing lectures on freedom vs. authority at the University of San Diego.

The challenge of technology is to man's responsibility, said the Rev. William L. Shipley. Though the biological nature of man has not changed significantly in the last two thousand years, he said, "when we get the power to turn off the ability to give birth, the power to change sex, then man is indeed changing his nature. The new controls over man are not covered by the past traditions of the Church. Man has new responsibilities over himself," he warned.

Father Shipley classified the encyclical of Pope Paul VI, "Humanae Vitae," as "not a law, it is an example of 'an authority' rather than an action of those 'in authority.'" The writers of the encyclical see human nature as static rather than evolving, that everything is defined by its form. Animals procreate, therefore, man procreates." Man is evolving in social relationships as well as bio-medical abilities, he said.

If biology is changed and babies come from test tubes or without parents, will society need marriage as a permanent institution, he asked? With males not needed as fathers, will there be an "excess of masculine bio-mass?" These are challenges man faces now, responsibilities he must meet, Father Shipley said.

The other member of the lecture-team, Dr. John W. Swanke, saw a challenge to individual rights by those usurping authority.

Among his examples of the exercise of authority, Dr. Swanke cited the policeman on patrol who, seeing a group of teenagers on a corner, stops and searches them.

"Teenagers don't have to be doing anything by congregating to arouse the interest of the police. If you don't think this happens then you don't know what goes on on the streets of San Diego," he told the class.

The goal of preventing crime seems to justify the existence of police and even questioning the teenagers, but does it justify unwarranted search?" he asked.

The lectures on freedom and authority are held Tuesdays and Thursdays until

(MORE)

August 1, in Room 238 of the USD College for Men. The course is open to the public for a fee of \$2.00 a session.

Turning to civil law, Father Shipley gave five conditions for determining a reasonable law: the law must be consistent, just, observable, enforceable and useful or necessary.

"Not every immoral act should be illegal," Father Shipley said. "An act should be illegal only if it affects the common good or society. The group makes the decision on law, and the group has the right to make rules for itself."

There are only two occasions when orders from those in authority do not diminish freedom but really increase it, he said. "The first is when it is for your own good, the other is when it is important to the group or team and you will benefit as a member of that 'team.'"

"If a person disagrees with the draft, it isn't worth burning down the whole country. Leadership couldn't be right all the time -- it isn't a requirement to always be right -- but to be getting the job done," he said.

Commenting on Pope Paul's encyclical, Dr. Swanke said, "only those well-informed and educated can set aside Pope Paul's law. He explained that he was not speaking of formal education alone, but of the knowledge acquired by living. "Pope Paul said an informed conscience must be followed if those who chose not to follow the injunction of the encyclical are following personal reflection and prayer. You alone face God with what is moral and immoral, and not the Pope," Dr. Swanke affirmed.

"Who needs law?" he asked. "All men: Society needs law. Society can't allow law to be defied, for the sake of society. Disagreement with the law must follow lawful means of expression; this does not give society the right, in turn, to destroy the individual -- law is designed to promote the individual.

"Some people can't live in some societies. They must recognize what kind of a society they need. It is wrong to stay in a group or society in which one cannot be a contributing member," Dr. Swanke added.

The series will discuss leadership, the obligations of society and conscience and teaching vs indoctrination in other sessions.

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