

REVISED  
EDITION



A  
CATECHISM  
FOR  
ADULTS

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*Imprimatur*

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Archbishop of Chicago

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LESSON 30: SINS AGAINST MARRIAGE (Cont.)

1. What are the sins against marriage?

- 1) Refusing the marriage debt
- 2) Unlawful separation
- 3) Divorce
- 4) Sinful company keeping
- 5) Adultery
- 6) Birth control
- 7) Abortion
- 8) Sterilization

2. What is the marriage debt?

The "marriage debt" means that a married person is obliged, under penalty of mortal sin, to give his (or her) married partner sexual intercourse whenever it is reasonably asked for.

*Lawful excuses for refusing: adultery, sickness, drunkenness, insanity, non-support, danger to an unborn baby.*

3. Should a married person always insist on the right to intercourse?

No, because a marriage cannot be successful unless it is founded on love and unselfishness.

4. Why is it a mortal sin to separate from your partner?

Separation in a *valid* marriage is a mortal sin because—

- 1) God said so.
- 2) To separate means to refuse the marriage debt (mortal sin).
- 3) A separated person is tempted to commit adultery or some other sin of sex.
- 4) Children cannot be properly trained.

5. Is a validly married person ever allowed to separate?

Yes, but only for a very serious reason and only with permission of the bishop.