A CATECHISM FOR ADULTS

REV. WILLIAM J. COGAN
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.