

## Christ is the LORD, not the Consultant

In the Gospel, we hear Jesus summing up his critique of the Pharisees by pointing out that they *"disregard God's commandment, but cling to human traditions"*. Throughout this whole exchange, Jesus uses that same definitive tone – Jesus is not merely arguing with the Pharisees .... He is not acting like philosopher or a mere professor .... Jesus is speaking with authority, opposing and correcting their distorted doctrines and practices. And he does so with total confidence, even though the people he is confronting have the power to condemn him to death.

This tone of authority and direct condemnation shows the seriousness of Christ's claims. He was the one declaring *"God's commandment"*, and anyone contradicting him was declaring nothing more than *"human traditions"*. As we heard in today's first reading, the commandments that were given to the people of Israel by Moses were commandments of God; they had divine authority behind them.

There is no doubt that Jesus Christ invoked that same divine authority for his teaching, while at the same time exposing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Such was Jesus then, and so He is now: The LORD, not the Consultant.

*Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang*



## REFLEXIÓN DEL PADRE PEDRO

### Cristo es el SEÑOR, no el Consultante

En el Evangelio, escuchamos a Jesús sumar su crítica a los fariseos, dirigiéndose a ellos, que *"desecharon el mandamiento de Dios, pero apegados a las tradiciones humanas"*. Durante todo este intercambio, Jesús el mismo tono - Jesús no está solo alegando con los fariseos .... El no está actuando como un filósofo o un mero profesor ... Jesús está hablando con autoridad, oponiéndose y corrigiendo sus distorsionadas doctrinas y prácticas. Y lo hace con total confianza, aunque la gente con la que él se enfrenta, tiene el poder de condenarlo a muerte.

Este tono de autoridad y condenación directa muestra la seriedad de lo que Cristo profesa. Él fue el que declaró el *"mandamiento de Dios"*, y cualquiera que lo contradiga era declarado no más que *"tradicción humana"*. Así como escuchamos en la primera lectura, los mandamientos que fueron dados al pueblo de Israel por Moisés eran mandamientos de Dios; tienen autoridad divina detrás de ellos.

No hay duda de que Jesús invocó esa misma autoridad divina en sus enseñanzas, mientras que al mismo tiempo expuso la hipocresía de los fariseos. Tal fue Jesús en ese entonces, y lo es ahora: EL SEÑOR, no el Consultante.

*Padre Pedro Nhat Hoang*

**LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY?** Eugene Catholic Young Adults, ECUYA, is for every Catholic young adult, ages 21-39! Come check out our vibrant, faith-filled community, on Thursday evenings at St. Mary Church (in parish Center), **6:45pm**. Next meeting is **Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**. For more info, contact: [eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com) or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA)

**JANE KIRKPATRICK (AUTHOR) IS COMING TO TOWN!** Come join New York times best-selling author, Jane Kirkpatrick, as she share her humorous and thought-provoking presentation, “Frontier Faith and Courage”, at St. Paul Church (Eugene), on Wednesday, **Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>**, in the parish hall (1201 Satre St), at **7:00pm**. Jane lives near Bend, OR, and has written 32 books — 27 novels and 5 non-fiction. This event is sponsored by the Women of St. Paul, and tickets are \$10/person, available at the door from 6:30pm. More info on Jane available at: [jkbooks.com](http://jkbooks.com).

**GREAT HOUR OF CARING WITH ARCHBISHOP SAMPLE** — 5Come attend this 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Hour of Caring fundraising breakfast on Wednesday, **Sept. 26** from **8-9:00am** at the Eugene Hilton. The theme is “*Making Waves of Change*” and Archbishop Sample will be our honored guest. This is a free event thanks to our very generous sponsors. We hope to see you there! **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by September 10** — Email [events@CCSLC.org](mailto:events@CCSLC.org) or call (541) 345-3628 ext. 317 to RSVP.



**Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC**  
(Congregation of Marian Fathers  
of the Immaculate Conception)  
**Keynote Speaker**



**OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> (SATURDAY)**  
**8:00AM -- 4:00PM**  
OREGON STATE  
FAIRGROUNDS PAVILION (IN SALEM)  
[rosarybowlnw.org](http://rosarybowlnw.org)

## FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

### WHY IS CONTRACEPTION WRONG?

To contracept is to willfully exclude the possibility of a conception resulting from the sexual act. The widespread practice of contraception in our day reflects the common attitude that children are more of a burden than a blessing. But that notion is utterly alien to Scripture.

In Psalms and Proverbs, for example, we hear a constant refrain about the great joy of being parents and grandparents many times over: “Certainly sons are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them (Ps 127:3-5)”. “Children’s children are the crown of the elderly (Prv 17:6)”. To biblical mothers and fathers, barrenness was not a convenience, but a curse (Dt 28:18; Jb 15:34).

The constant teaching of the Church has been to prohibit contraception, and this was, actually, taught by ALL major Christian groups until 1930. Spacing of children, or limiting of children for serious reasons is permitted, according to Pope Paul VII’s encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (1968) and Catholic moral teaching. *But* this limitation must come about through natural, not artificial means, such as Natural Family Planning (NFP), so that the integrity of the marital sexual act is preserved — that is, open to the possibility of transmitting new life, which is part of it’s natural purpose.

One biblical text cited in support of this truth concerns the grave sin of Onan, who sought the physical pleasures of sexual acts while preventing the possibility of new life: “Whenever he had relations with his brother’s widow, he wasted his seed on the ground, to avoid contributing offspring for his brother. What he did greatly offended the Lord, and the Lord took his life, too (Gn 38:9-10)”.

Contraception is contrary to our sexual nature and the innate purposes for which God created it. Every marital sexual act, then, must be open to the possibility of conception.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** Excerpt taken from the NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Gn 1:27-28; 9:1; 17:6, 20; 28:3 · Ex 23:26 · Lv 26:9 · Dt 7:14 · 1 Sm 1:4-16 · Ps 128:3 · Prv 30:16 · 1 Cor 7:5 ·  
& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 1652-1654 · 2249 · 2349 · 2352 · 2366-2379 · 2398-2399 ·