

**Pastoral Council**  
**Thoughts for Reflection**  
**May 29, 2016**

**Assault on the Family**

Cardinal Sarah is the prefect for the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Sacraments. He was the keynote speaker at the annual prayer breakfast in Washington, D.C., where he made the following observations:

“The battle to preserve the roots of mankind is perhaps the greatest challenge our world has faced since its origins. Do not be afraid to proclaim the truth with love, especially about marriage according to God’s plans. In the words of St. Catherine of Siena, ‘proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear.’

“The family is natural preparation and anticipation of the communion that is possible when we are united with God...this is why the devil is so intent on destroying the family. If the family is destroyed, we lose our God-given anthropological foundations and so find it more difficult to welcome the saving good news of Jesus Christ: self-giving, fruitful love.

“The rupture of the foundational relationships of someone’s life—through separation, divorce, or distorted impositions of the family, such as cohabitation or same sex unions—is a deep wound that closes the heart to self-giving love [unto] death, and even leads to cynicism and despair.

“These situations cause damage to the little children through inflicting upon them a deep existential doubt about love. They are a scandal—a stumbling block—that prevent the most vulnerable from believing in such love, and a crushing burden that can prevent them from opening to the healing power of the Gospel.

“Advanced societies, including, I regret, this nation, have done and continue to do everything possible to legalize such situations. But this can never be a truthful solution. It is like putting bandages on the infected wound. It will continue to poison the body until antibiotics are taken.

“Sadly, the advent of artificial reproductive technologies, surrogacy, so-called homosexual ‘marriage,’ and other evils of gender ideology, will inflict even more wounds in the midst of generations we live with.” 1