

# Same sex unions & adoption: Placing adults, children and the culture at risk

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# Pope Benedict XVI

- ☀ “...if homosexual unions are perceived more and more as enjoying the same standing as marriage, then we are truly facing a dissolution of the image of humankind, bearing consequences that can only be extremely grave.”
- ☀ Pope Benedict XVI. (2006). Essay from *Without Roots*. Basic Books. *First Things*. January 2006.



# Marriage

- ✦ Marriage provides the best environment in which to protect children and also reflects the natural biological complementarity between man and woman which predates the state and which is woven into the social and religious fabric of every major culture and society.

# SSA parents

- ✦ Left out of the debate over gay marriage and gay parenting is the potential devastation wrought on the child, said Dawn Stefanowicz, who tells her story of growing up with a gay father and a chronically ill and passive mother in her memoir, *"Out From Under: The Impact of Homosexual Parenting."*

# References

- ★ O'Leary, D. (2007) *One Man One Woman: A Catholic's guide for defending marriage.*
- ★ *Marriage and the Public Health: Ten Principles.* Witherspoon Institute, Princeton
- ★ George, R. & Elshtain, J. (2006) *The Meaning of Marriage: family, state, market, & morals.* Spence: Dallas
- ★ Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, [www.imapp.org](http://www.imapp.org)
- ★ Institute for American Values (2006) *Why marriage matters: Twenty-six conclusions from the social sciences.* [www.americanvalues.org](http://www.americanvalues.org)

# Research on SSA adoption

- ★ American College of Pediatricians, Statement on Homosexual Parenting. January 22, 2004
  - ★ [www.acpeds.org/?CONTEXT=art&cat+10005&art=50&BISKIT=23102927](http://www.acpeds.org/?CONTEXT=art&cat+10005&art=50&BISKIT=23102927)
- ★ Review Of Research On Homosexual Parenting, Adoption, And Foster Parenting
  - ★ George Rekers,  
[www.narth.com/docs/rekers.html](http://www.narth.com/docs/rekers.html)
- ★ Marquardt, E. (2006) Institute for American Values. *The revolution in parenthood: The emerging global clash between adult rights and children's needs.*

# References

- ★ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (2003) *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*. Congregation for the Doctrine for the Faith  
[www.catholiceducation.org/articles/homosexuality/ho0067.html](http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/homosexuality/ho0067.html)
- ★ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. (2003) *Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers about Marriage and Same Sex Unions*.  
★ [www.usccb.org/laity/manandwoman.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/laity/manandwoman.shtml)

# Vatican statement on civil unions

- ★ “...the absence of complementarity in these unions creates obstacles in the normal development of children who would be placed in the care of such persons. They would be deprived of the experience of either fatherhood or motherhood. Allowing children to be adopted by persons living in such unions would actually mean doing violence to these children,

# Vatican statement on civil unions

- ✦ ..in the sense that the condition of dependency would be used to place them in an environment that is not conducive to their full human development.”
- ✦ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, (2003). *Considerations Regarding Proposals To Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*, n.7. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
- ✦ [www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20030731\\_homosexual-unions\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20030731_homosexual-unions_en.html)

# Vatican Document

- ✦ Legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior, with the consequence of making it a model in the present-day society, but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity.
- ✦ The Church cannot fail to defend these values, for the good of men and women and for the good of society itself.
  - Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Congregation for the Doctrine for the Faith (2003). *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*.

# France and adoption

- ★ The purpose of adoption is not to provide a child to a family but rather a family to a child... Given the original trauma of his/her personal history, the adopted child requires the judicial and emotional security that only married parents can provide. Parliamentary Report on the Rights of Children, French National Assembly, Paris, January 25, 2006.

- ★ [www.preservemarriage.ca](http://www.preservemarriage.ca)

# Massachusetts and SSUs

- ★ When the Mass. Supreme Court ordered the recognition of same sex unions, it justified the decision by creating out of whole cloth its own novel definition of marriage. The “sine qua non of marriage, “ it said, “is not the sexual complimentarity of the partners, but the “exclusive and permanent commitment of the marriage partners to one another.”
  - ★ O’Leary D. (2007) *One Man One Woman: A Catholic’s Guide to Defending Marriage* citing the *Goodridge* decision, p. 172-3.

# Lack of fidelity

- ✦ The court ignored the universally recognized fact that male/male partnerships are rarely exclusive or permanent.
- ✦ In reviewing 6 books on same-sex marriage, not one of them affirmed sexual exclusivity or sexual fidelity as the expected norm in same-sex unions.
  - ✦ Tubbs, D.L. & George, R.P., “Redefining Marriage Away,” *City Journal* (Summer 2004), quoting Queer Liberalism? *American Political Science Review*, June 2000.

# Study of SSA couples

- ✱ Only 7 of 156 couples had a totally exclusive sexual relationship
- ✱ Together less than 5 years
- ✱ Couples with a relationship lasting more than 5 years incorporate some provision for outside sexual activity in their relationship.
  - ✱ McWhirter, D. & Mattison, A. (1985) *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop*, P. 252

# Consensual infidelity - helpful

- ★ “As a result of this study we believe that the single most important factor that keeps couples together past the ten year mark is the lack of possessiveness they feel. Many couples learn very early in their relationship that ownership of each other sexually can be the greatest internal threat to their staying together.”

- ★ Ibid., 256

# Prevalence of infidelity

- ★ A survey of 884 men and 1,288 women found that 77% of married men and 88% of married women remained faithful to their spouses.
- ★ Wiederman, M.(1997) Extramarital sex: Prevalence and correlates in a national survey. *J of Sex Research* 34:170

# Prevalence of infidelity

- ★ University of Chicago national survey found that that 75% of husbands and 85% of wives never had sexual relations outside of marriage.
  - Laumann,E.O., et al. (1994) The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Table 5.15, 216

# Prevalence

- ★ A highly regarded survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago has found that 22 percent of men have had a sex partner other than their spouse while married, compared to 13 percent of women. (The figures are an average of the years between 1991 and 2004.)
- ★ Whisman M.A., et al., (2007) Predicting sexual infidelity in a population-based sample of married individuals. *J Fam Psychol.* 21(2):320-4.

# HIV & steady relationships

- ★ Most new HIV infections among men with SSA in Amsterdam occur within steady relationships. Prevention measures should address risky behavior, especially with steady partners, and the promotion of HIV testing.
- Xiridou, M et al. (2003) The contribution of steady and casual partnerships to the incidence of HIV infection among homosexual men in Amsterdam. *AIDS* 17;1029-38.

# Fidelity

- ★ “Among gay men a long-lasting monogamous relationship is almost unknown.”
  - Altman, D. (1982) *The Homosexualization of America*, p. 187

# Open infidelity as a benefit

- ✦ Rejection of “heteronormative” standards
- ✦ ...a degree of fluidity that allows for considerable variety and autonomy. What often appears to straight critics as an obsession with sex is more accurately a preoccupation with constructing relationships that can meet our needs for security and independence, commitment, and variety.
  - ✦ Altman, D. (1982) *The Homosexualization of America* (Boston: Beacon Press), 187.

# Suicide Risk

★ “The ‘gay life’ provides no more than an alienated and isolated existence for many homosexuals. Continuity of relationships between two homosexuals is rare, although many homosexuals spend a lifetime seeking it. Rejection or disappointment signifies not merely abandonment, but despair over the inability to escape emotional isolation.”

- Herbert Hendin, (1995), *Suicide in America*, p. 146. Executive Director American Suicide Foundation. Professor of Psychiatry, New York Medical College.

# “Sexual freedom”

- ★ ...a sexually adventurous, gender-defying bunch. We have also come up with configurations for relationships and families that go a long way toward solving the problem that has kept heterosexuals sad for centuries - how to combine emotional fidelity with sexual freedom. One of the right wing's goals in making these attributes into smears is to force lesbians and gay men to abandon the most defiant, least heterosexual aspects of their lives. If we become the straightest gays in world history, they have already won half the battle.

- ★ Minkowitz, D. “Recruit, Recruit, Recruit.” *The Advocate*, December 29, 1992.

# Damage to marriage

- ✱ In Scandinavia and the Netherlands the acceptance of de facto gay marriage has damaged the state of marriage and family life. The percentage of people marrying and staying married in those places has dropped precipitously.
- ✱ Increase in numerous accepted alternative family forms
- ✱ The traditional institution of marriage is dying.
  - ✱ Kurtz, S. (2004) The Death of Marriage in Scandinavia. [www.preservemarriage.org](http://www.preservemarriage.org)

# SSUs and Marriage rates

- ★ Look at Norway. It began allowing same-sex marriage in the 1990s. In just the last decade, its heterosexual-marriage rates have nose-dived and its out-of-wedlock birthrate skyrocketed to 80 percent for firstborn children.

# The need for stable parents

- ✦ Children surrendered for adoption have already suffered one major loss, it is crucial that they have be placed in the most stable situation possible. But same-sex couples have built-in problems and deficiencies that make them less stable right from the start.

# Needs of children

- ★ “Research clearly demonstrates that family structure matters for children, and the family structure that helps children the most is a family headed by two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage...There is thus value for children in promoting strong, stable marriages between biological parents.”
  - Moore, K.A. et al. (2002) Marriage from a child’s perspective: How does family structure affect children and what can be done about it? *Child Trends Research Brief* (Washington, D.C.: Child Trends) (June)

# Children's needs

- ✦ The research supporting the importance of dual gender parenting and childrearing is extensive and clear in its singular conclusion: all variables considered children are best served when reared in a home with a married mother and father.
  - ✦ David Popenoe, 1996, *Life Without Father*, New York: Free Press, P. 176

# SSUs - Unstable relationships: a danger to children

- ✱ Lack of commitment/stability
- ✱ Rampant promiscuity
- ✱ Serious mental illnesses
- ✱ Poorer physical health
- ✱ High levels of emotional and physical abuse
- ✱ Lack of stability
- ✱ Research studies in Byrd's and Reker's papers at [www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com)

# Complementary strengths

- ✦ “The complementarity of male and female parenting styles is striking and of enormous importance to a child’s overall development. Fathers express more concern for the child’s long-term development, while mothers focus on the child’s immediate well-being (which of course, in its own way has everything to do with a child’s long-term well being).

# Complementary in discipline

- ★ The disciplinary approach of fathers tends to be “firm” while that of mothers tends to be “responsive.” While mothers provide an important flexibility and sympathy in their discipline, fathers provide ultimate predictability and consistency. Both dimensions are critical for efficient, balanced and humane childrearing.
  - ★ David Popenoe, 1996, *Life Without Father*, New York: Free Press, P. 145

# Complimentarity in touch

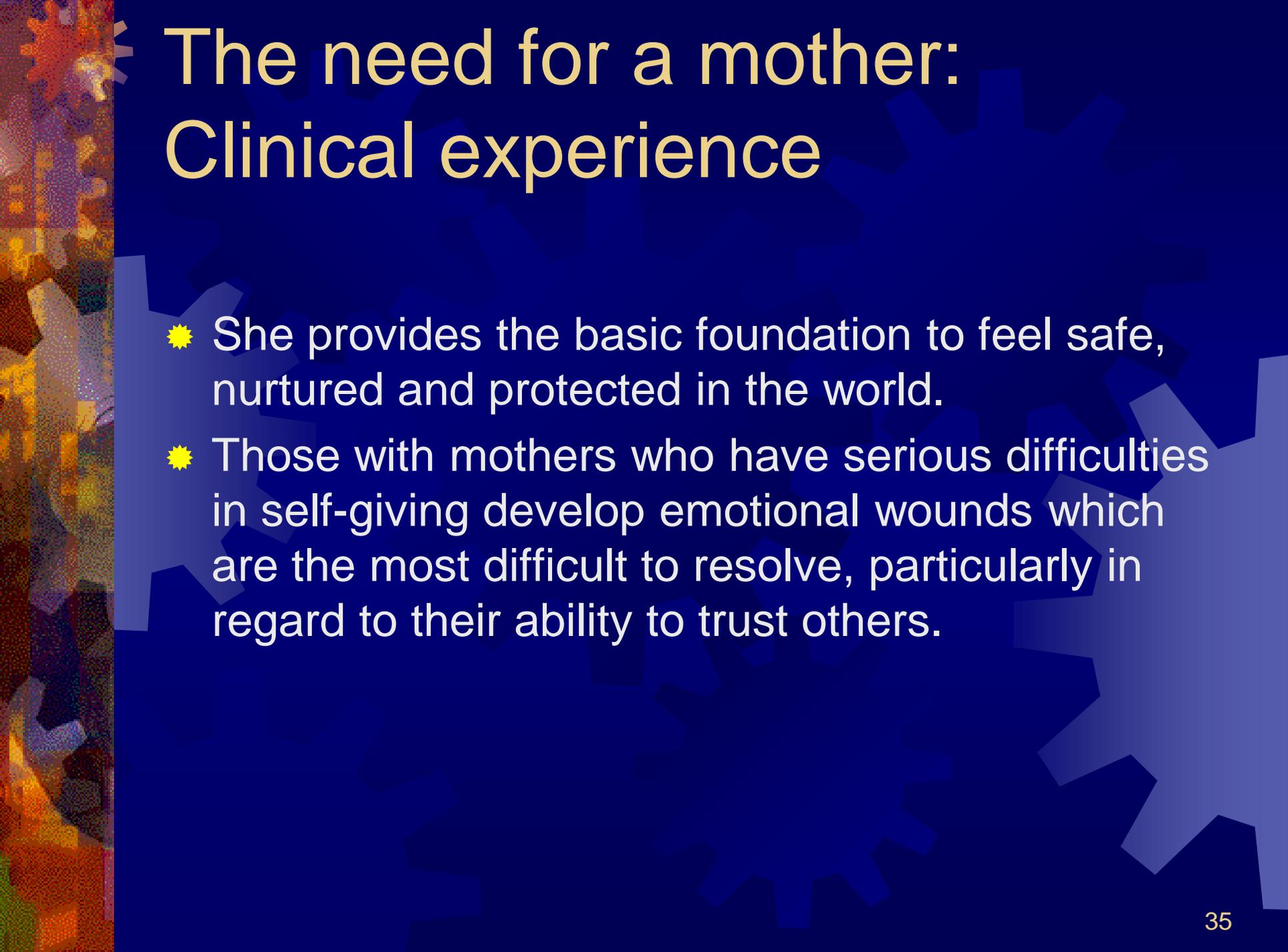
- ☀ Mothers - frequently bring children to their breasts to provide safety, warmth and security
- ☀ Fathers - touch is playful, stimulating, exciting (rough and tumble play, RTP)
- ☀ RTP - hold child at arms length, toss in the air
- ☀ “daddy holds’ emphasize a sense of freedom for the child
  - ☀ Shapiro, J.L. (1994) Letting dads be dads. Parents, June, 165, 168.

# Parenting gifts

- ★ Most fathers and mothers possess sex-specific talents related to parenting.
- ★ Most parenting talents are possessed by members of both sexes.
- ★ Nevertheless, one sex tends to excel in each of these talents. For example, mothers are better at nurturing small children than fathers.
  - W. Bradford Wilcox (2007) *The Complimentarity of Motherhood and Fatherhood: A Tour de Force of the Relevant Social Science* (unpublished)

# The need for a father: Clinical experience and research

- ☀ Numerous studies and books demonstrate the severe emotional, cognitive and behavioral conflicts in those raised without fathers.
  - ☀ Popenoe, D. (1996) *Life without Father: Compelling new evidence that fatherhood and marriage are indispensable for the good of children and society.*
  - ☀ Blankenhorn, D. (1996) *Fatherless America*



# The need for a mother: Clinical experience

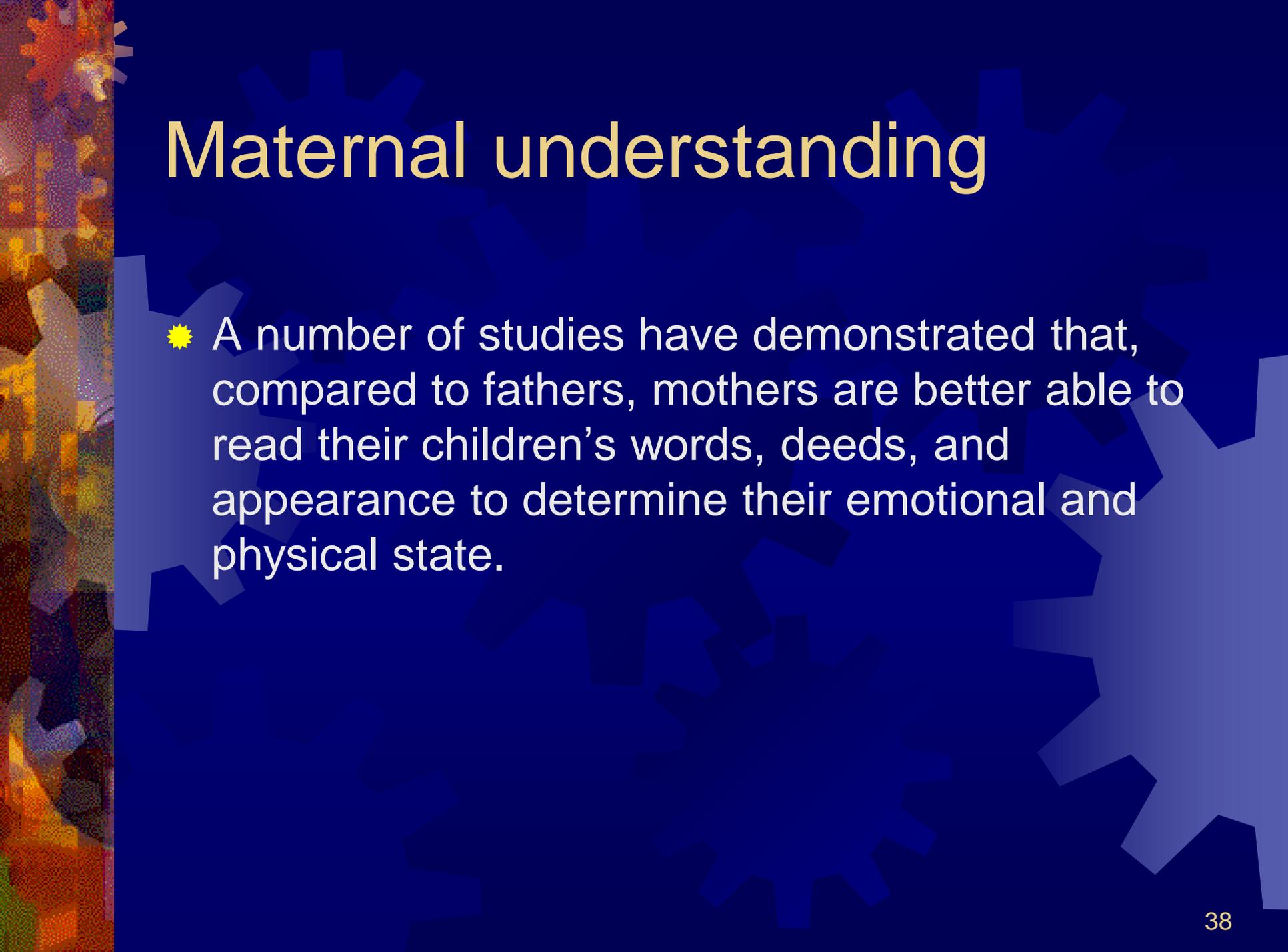
- ✦ She provides the basic foundation to feel safe, nurtured and protected in the world.
- ✦ Those with mothers who have serious difficulties in self-giving develop emotional wounds which are the most difficult to resolve, particularly in regard to their ability to trust others.

# Womens' parenting gifts

- ★ “Genius of Women” -
  - ★ Special capacity to show love
  - ★ Delicate sensitivity to the needs of other
  - ★ Understanding of inner conflicts in others
  - ★ Special capacity for the other

# Mother's unique talents

- ✦ Only mothers can breastfeed their children
- ✦ Their ability to understand infants and children
- ✦ Their ability to offer nurture and comfort to their children
  - Wilcox, W.B. (2007) *The Complementarity of Motherhood and Fatherhood: A Tour de Force of the Relevant Social Science* (unpublished)
- ✦ American Academy of Pediatrics in 1997 recommended that infants be breastfed until at least one year of age.



# Maternal understanding

- ✦ A number of studies have demonstrated that, compared to fathers, mothers are better able to read their children's words, deeds, and appearance to determine their emotional and physical state.

# Maternal nurturance

- ✦ Maternal sensitivity makes mothers better able to provide to children what they need.
- ✦ Mothers are primed by their hormones to engage in nurturing behavior such as hugging, praising and cuddling.
- ✦ The hormone oxytocin which is released during pregnancy makes mothers more interested in bonding with children and engaging in nurturing behaviors than fathers.

# Maternal nurturance

- ✦ Children know mother's gifts/genius and numerous studies indicate that they prefer mothers to fathers when they seek solace or relief from hunger, fear, sickness or some other distress.
- ✦ Given these female gifts it is functional for societies to organize the bulk of child rearing around the mother.

# The Father and children

- ✦ Analysis of more than 100 studies on the role of fathers in child development
- ✦ “Overall, father love appears to be as heavily implicated as mother love in offspring’s psychological well-being.”
  - ✦ Rohner, R.P. & Veneziano, R.A. (2001) “The importance of father love: history and contemporary evidence,” *Review of General Psychology* 5.4, 382-405.

# The Father and child rearing

- ★ Associated with self-control
- ★ Learn aggression is not acceptable
- ★ Learn how to manage emotionally-charged situations in the context of play and how to recognize and respond appropriately to an array of emotions.
  - Cromwell, N.A. & Leper, E. M. (Eds.) (1994) American fathers and public policy, Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

# The father and infants

- ✱ Infants (12 months old) who had close relationships with their fathers were more stress resistant than those who did not have such relationships.
- ✱ Babies who had secure father relationships used more coping strategies.
- ✱ “There may be something unique to fathers that provides children with different opportunities to regulate emotions.”
  - ✱ Diener, M.L. et al. (2002) *Infancy*, 3(2), 153-174.

# Father's unique gifts/genius

- ✦ Greater distance from process of gestation and birth enables him to act more calmly on behalf of life.
- ✦ He acts to protect life and guarantee its future.
- ✦ He is a father in a physical and spiritual sense.
- ✦ He is called to be strong, firm, reliable and trustworthy.
  - ✦ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, 2004, *The Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World*.

# The Father's special gifts

- ✦ Fathers excel when it comes to discipline.
- ✦ They excel when it comes to play.
- ✦ They excel in leading their children to embrace life's challenges.
- ✦ W. Bradford Wilcox (2007) *The Complementarity of Motherhood and Fatherhood: A Tour de Force of the Relevant Social Science* (unpublished)

# Fathers & discipline

- ✦ Plays a signal role in fostering an orderly climate in the home
- ✦ Engender more fear than mothers due to strength in appearance and voice
- ✦ More assertive
- ✦ Firmer and more compelling disciplinarians
- ✦ More likely than mothers to get boys to respond to disciplinary strategy

# Fathers and Play

- ✱ Distinctive father play is vigorous, physical and exciting which boys in particular love.
- ✱ Teaches children how to deal with aggressive impulses and physical contact without losing control of emotions.
- ✱ Children who roughhouse with their fathers usually learn that biting, kicking, and others forms of physical aggression are unacceptable.
- ✱ Prepares children for the game of life.

# Fathers and life's challenges

- ✦ More likely than mothers to encourage children to take up difficult tasks, to seek out novel experiences and to endure pain and hardship without yielding.
- ✦ Excel in teaching virtues of fortitude, temperance and prudence.
- ✦ Leads to higher rates of educational and occupational attainment, self-confidence, and more prosocial behaviors in boys and girls.

# Fathers' Gifts

- ✦ A certain distance from children leads fathers to be freer to be firm and challenging with their children
- ✦ Distance leads fathers to focus on children's future and to internalize a sense of self-control.
- ✦ Boys learn to control their male strength and aggressive instincts.

# Family studies: Vive la difference

- ★ The best parenting approach was one in which parents were highly responsive and highly demanding.
- ★ Children in an intact, married family are 50% less likely to experience serious psychological, academic, or social problems.
- ★ Weak males try to dominate and employ excessive anger to prove their masculinity.
- ★ One of the strongest predictors of crime is fatherlessness.

# Conclusions

- ★ Governments and international organizations such as the UN need to come to terms with the accumulating social scientific evidence that indicates that distinctly gendered approaches to parenting are best for children and families.
- ★ W. Bradford Wilcox (2007) *The Complementarity of Motherhood and Fatherhood: A Tour de Force of the Relevant Social Science* (unpublished)

# Family studies

- ✱ Fathers play a central role in civilizing boys.
- ✱ Loving, strong fathers lead daughters to more confident in dealing with males and less likely to act-out sexually.
- ✱ Fathers send out a pheromones that slows the sexual development of their daughters making them less interested in sexual activity and less likely to be seen as sexual objects.

# Studies in support of same sex parenting

- ★ Preliminary assertions by Dr. Jerry Bigner
- ★ SSA parents possess parenting skills and abilities comparable to their heterosexual counterparts.
- ★ One third of lesbians and 10% of gays are parents.
- ★ Same motivation for parenting.
- ★ Increasing numbers are parenting.
  - Dr. Jerry Bigner. November 11, 2000. Affidavit, Ontario Superior Court, same sex parenting.

# SSA parenting research

- ✦ “All the articles I reviewed contained at least one fatal flaw of design or execution.
- ✦ Not a single one of these studies was conducted according to general accepted standards of scientific research.”
  - ✦ Nock, S. (2001) Aff., Halpern v Attorney General of Canada, No. 684/00 (Ont. Sup. Ct. of Justice) (Professor of sociology U. VA, associate editor, *Journal of Marriage & Family and Social Science Research*)

# Fatherless children

- ☀ “Children in father absent families perceive themselves to be less cognitively competent and less physically competent than children in father-present families, with no differences between children in lesbian and single heterosexual families.”
- Golombok, S. et al (1997) Children raised in fatherless families from infancy: Family relationships and the socioeconomic development of children of lesbian and single heterosexual mothers. *J. Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 38: 783-791, 788.

# Current studies SSA parenting

- ✦ Current studies have critical flaws of non-longitudinal design, inadequate sample size, biased sample selection, lack of proper controls, failure to account for confounding variables.
- ✦ “The methods used in these studies are so flawed that the studies prove nothing.”
  - ✦ Lerner, R.& Althea, A. (2001)No Basis: What the Studies Don't Tell Us About Same Sex Parenting.

# Research on SSA parenting

- ★ Most of the research on homosexual parenting compares in some fatherless families to children in other fatherless families.
  - Dean Byrd (2007), Same sex adoptions, [www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com)
- ★ Such studies cannot be reasonably used to contradict extensive social science research which demonstrates that family structure indeed matters, and the intact, married biological family structure is the most protective of child well-being.
  - Spaht, K.S. (2006). The current crisis in marriage law, its origins, and its impact. In George, R.P. & Elshtain, J.B. (Eds.) *The Meaning of Marriage*. p 216.

# Adoption studies

★ The study of same-sex couples is in its infancy," Dr Byrd said, according to The Yorkshire Post. "However, in spite of the many flaws in the very limited pool of rigorous studies, there appears to be an emerging theme." Children raised by same-sex couples exhibit poor outcomes not so dissimilar to those raised by divorced heterosexual parents."

- Dean Byrd, (2007) Testimony regarding same sex adoption, [www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com)

# APA on SSA adoption

- ★ “Numerous studies over the past three decades consistently demonstrate that children raised by gay or lesbian parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social, and sexual functioning as children raised by heterosexual parents. This research indicates that optimal development for children is based not on the sexual orientation of the parents, but on stable attachments to committed and nurturing adults.

# APA and adoption

- ★ This research also shows that children who have two parents, regardless of the parents' sexual orientations, do better than children with only one parent.”
  - ★ APA statement on SSA adoption  
[www.psych.org/edu/other\\_res/lib\\_archives/archives/200214pdf](http://www.psych.org/edu/other_res/lib_archives/archives/200214pdf)

# American College of Pediatricians & Parenting

- ★ “The research literature on childrearing by homosexual parents is limited. The environment in which children are reared is absolutely critical. Given the current body of research, the American College of Pediatricians believes it is inappropriate, potentially hazardous to children, and dangerously irresponsible to change the age-old prohibition on homosexual parenting, whether by adoption, foster care or by reproductive manipulation.

# American College of Pediatricians and Parenting

- ★ This position is rooted in the best available science.”
  - Homosexual Parenting: Is It Time For a Change?  
American College of Pediatricians, January 22, 2004
  - [www.acpeds.org/?CONTEXT=art&cat+10005&art=50&BISKIT=23102927](http://www.acpeds.org/?CONTEXT=art&cat+10005&art=50&BISKIT=23102927)

# Protecting children

- ✦ Considerable damage can be done to children by making legal policy based on preliminary and inadequate social science research.
- ✦ Legal scholars should proceed with caution before advocating changes in family law based on the assumption that family structure does not matter to a child's well being.
  - ✦ Gallagher M. & Baker, J.K. (2004) Do Mom and Dads Matter: Evidence from the social sciences on family structure and at the best interests of the child. *Margins* 161(4):161-180

# Experimentation on Children

- ✱ Attempting to desensitize and “convert” kindergarteners by requiring them to read in public schools -
- ✱ *Heather Has Two Mommies*
- ✱ *Daddy’s Roommate*
- ✱ *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride*

# Catholic Social services & SSA adoption

- ★ Catholic Charities, the largest private social service provider in Massachusetts, could not in good conscience place its orphan children into homosexual households. After a bitter struggle, Boston Catholic Charities was forced out of the adoption apostolate because it refused to embrace the state's new definition of marriage. The result was doubly tragic because both orphan children and religious liberty took the hit for this misguided attempt at equality.

# Benedict & World Day of Peace January 1, 2008

- ☀ Consequently, whoever, even unknowingly, circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect the primary agency of peace. This point merits special reflection: everything that serves to weaken the family based on the marriage of a man and a woman, everything that directly or indirectly stands in the way of its openness to the responsible acceptance of a new life, everything that obstructs its right to be primarily responsible for the education of its children, constitutes an objective obstacle on the road to peace.

# Benedict & marriage

- ★ Equally troubling is the growing crisis of the family, which is the fundamental nucleus of society based on the indissoluble bond of marriage between a man and a woman. Experience has shown that when the truth about man is subverted or the foundation of the family undermined, peace itself is threatened and the rule of law is compromised, leading inevitably to forms of injustice and violence.
  - On September 21, 2007, in an address to participants in a conference of the Executive Committee of Centrist Democratic International.

# Massachusetts and SSUs

- ✦ The experience of legalizing same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, and of civil unions elsewhere, cannot be ignored. It shows that, even with the best of intentions, legalizing same-sex marriage will seriously undermine the religious freedom citizens have enjoyed since the founding.

# Massachusetts & SSUs

- ★ Although the First Amendment protects dissenting houses of worship from being forced to perform same-sex wedding ceremonies against their will, that is not the end of the story - it is barely even the beginning.
- ★ Simply changing the definition of marriage opens the door to a flood of lawsuits against dissenting religious institutions based on state public accommodation and employment laws that prohibit marital status and sexual orientation discrimination.

# Massachusetts and SSUs

- ✦ Additionally, religious institutions that refuse to recognize a new state-imposed definition could be stripped of access to government programs, have their tax exemption denied and even lose the ability to solemnize civil marriages.
- ✦ We need only look at Massachusetts for a preview of what to expect. There, in 2004, justices of the peace who refused to solemnize same-sex unions due to religious objections were summarily fired.
- ✦ A religious belief became a firing offense.

# What should Catholics Do?

- ✦ We should be a community of conscience within society.
- ✦ Participation in the political process is a moral obligation.
- ✦ This is particularly urgent in light of the need to defend marriage and to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions as marriages.
- ✦ Married couples themselves, the witness of their faithful, life-giving love, are the best advocates for marriage.
  - ✦ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (2003) *Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*. Congregation for the Doctrine for the Faith

# John Paul II

- ★ “I am thinking of the strong pressure from the European Parliament to recognize homosexual unions as an alternative type of family, with the right to adopt children. It is legitimate, and even necessary, to ask whether this is not the work of another ideology of evil, more subtle and hidden, perhaps, intent upon exploiting human rights themselves against man and against the family”.
- ★ John Paul II (2005) *Memory and Identity*, p.11. Rizzoli Publishers, New York, NY.

# John Paul II

- ☀ “The power of Christ’s cross and resurrection is far greater than any evil man could or should fear.”
  - John Paul II (1994) *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*. Knopf. p.219