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From the Editor's Desk

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From the Editor's Desk



“Veritatis Splendor” and Teenagers

We welcome, like a breath of fresh air, the new encyclical issued by Pope John Paul II entitled, “Veritatis Splendor”, “The Splendor of Truth”. While we have not read a copy of “Veritatis Splendor”, newspaper reports indicate that it is the most important encyclical that Pope John Paul II has issued. The encyclical proclaims that morality transcends all eras and cultures and it is not a matter of opinion. The encyclical, in effect, says that the Pope’s authority in all matters of morals — not simply sexual moral — is absolute for all Catholics. There is no room or scope for any theological dissent. This encyclical should go far to dispel among the faithful doubts and confusion as to what is morally right and what is morally wrong. It is our hope that dissenting theologians will finally pack their bags and fade away into the night. They have been a scandal for too many years and have been a source of confusion too long to the faithful. It is with eagerness that we look forward to reading the text of this most important encyclical.

On another front it is refreshing today to hear about the revolution taking place among teenagers in regard to chastity. In a recent column by Cal Thomas, he recounts the enthusiasm expressed by teenagers in regard to abstinence. It could be called a sexual counter-revolution. The Southern Baptist Convention, the nation’s largest Protestant denomination, has created a campaign called “True Love Waits” in which teenagers pledge in front of their parents and each other to remain chaste until marriage, signing cards that they carry with them. There are signs that this movement is catching on in other denominations. Teenagers are

flocking to sign the pledge which says, "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a covenant marriage relationship."

At a summer camp in Oklahoma, more than 13,500 teens committed to the program. It is with great hope that this movement spreads and embraces the teenagers of America. It is the answer to the moral lapses of this generation as seen in the devastating statistics in regard to abortion, illegitimate pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, family breakdowns, etc.

It is interesting to see that this movement is emanating from the more fundamental Protestant denominations. Hopefully, Pope John Paul II's new encyclical "Veritatis Splendor" will inspire the Roman Catholic denomination to respond with vigor to its Protestant colleagues.

— **John P. Mullooly, M.D.**
