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JOURNEY

IN

LOVE

YEAR 6



YEAR SIX

The wonder of God's love in creating new life



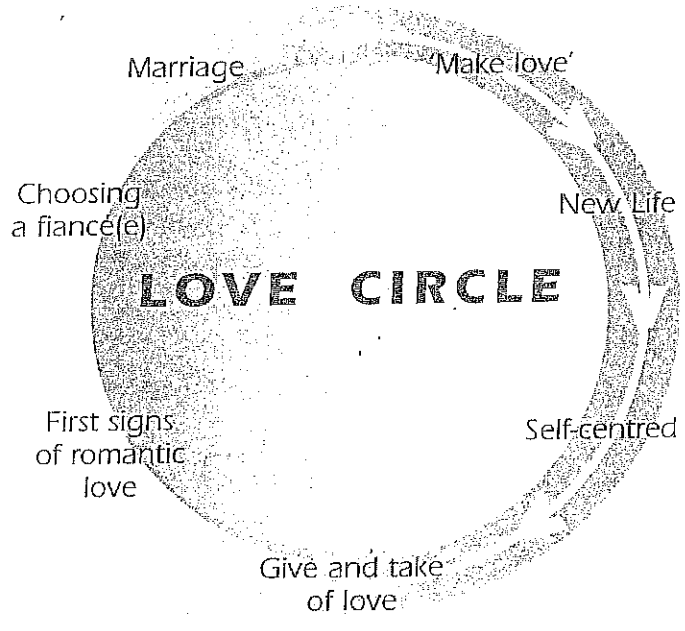
BACKGROUND NOTE

The Christian teaching is that babies should be conceived as the fruit of a loving, married relationship.

The Circle of Life and Love

Every human being is caught up in the circle of life and love.

1 The circle is one of love's development and expression. A couple 'make love' (their sexual union is, ideally, an expression of love); if a child is conceived, it needs love from its first recognised moments. It is surrounded by love as it grows and develops. As it matures away from a self-centred love, the child/young person learns how to give love and not just receive it. In maturity the woman /man looks instinctively for a marriage partner with whom the loving gift of self can find expression in love's deepest sign: sexual intercourse, they make love.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children develop, in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

KEYWORDS

- God
- Christian
- Appropriate
- Dignity
- Sexuality
- Intercourse
- Fallopian
- Conceive
- Relationship
- Uterus
- Cervix
- Marriage
- Fiancé
- Fiancée

SKILLS

Categorising
Observing
Classifying
Listening
Questioning
Speaking
Relating
Respecting
Reflecting
Thinking
Identifying
Accepting
Empathising
Understanding
Communicating
Presenting
Evaluating
Researching

2 Love proclaims its presence by signs and the deepest, most intimate and most wonderful of human signs of love is the gift of self in sexual intercourse. But the natural outcome (all conditions being fulfilled) of sexual intercourse is the conception of new life. As co-creators the parents bestow life on a new human being. That human being needs love and will, in time, express love: will make love, and a new human being will join us! To remove 'life', 'love' or 'sex' from the circle destroys God's intended balance and produces severe problems for society.

Love is indeed 'ecstasy' not in the sense of a moment of intoxication.

Deus Caritas Est 6

We are not some
 casual and meaningless
 product of evolution.

Each of us is the
 result of a thought
 of God.

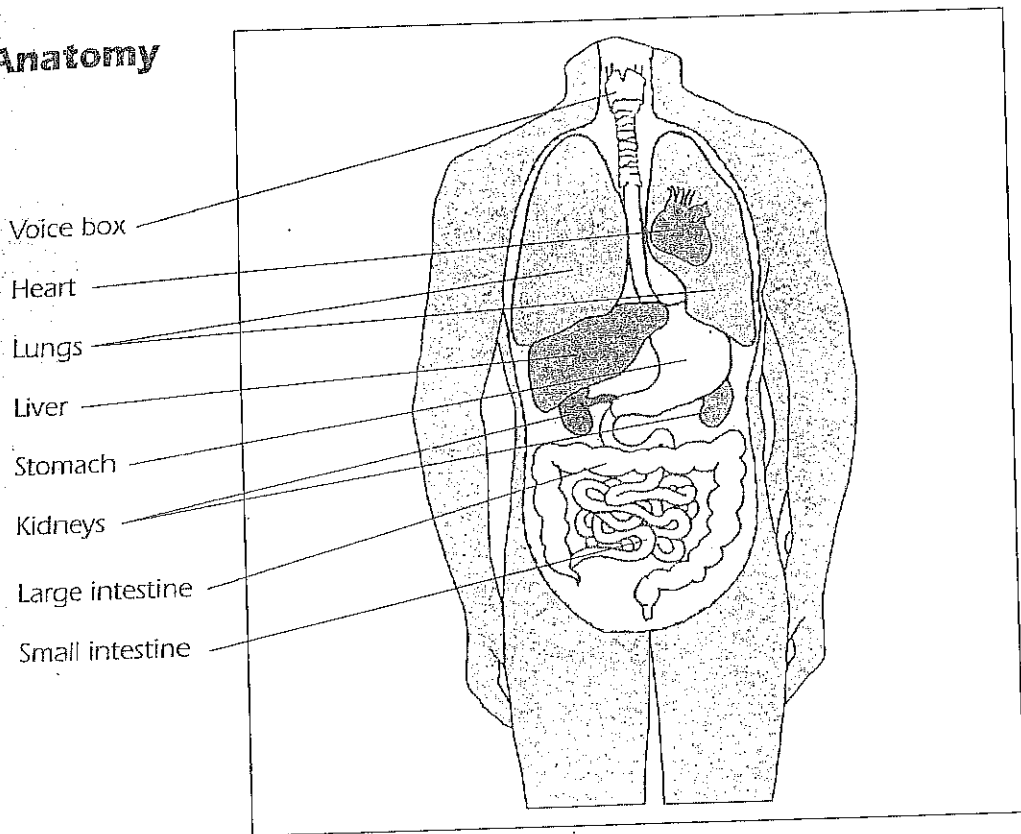
Benedict XVI

PHYSICAL

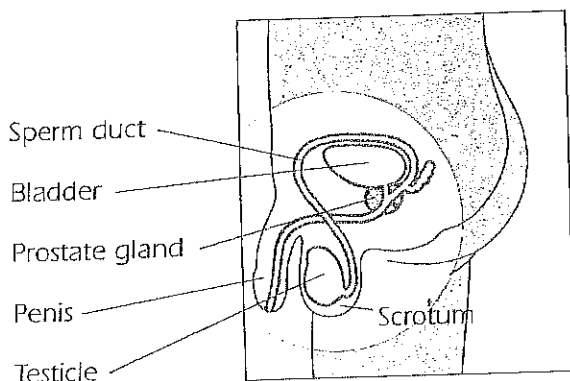
(1) Explain how human life is conceived.

Look at the illustrations of the organs of the human body including male and female reproductive organs.

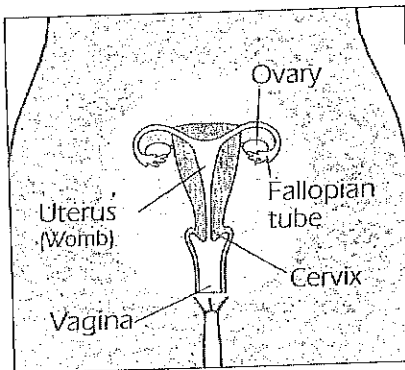
Anatomy



Male and female reproductive organs



Male



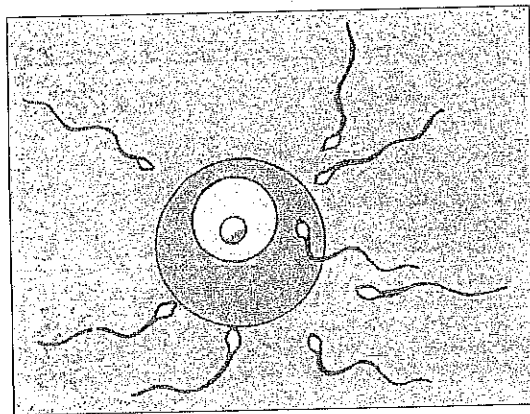
Female

Sexual intercourse between husband and wife is a joyful expression of their love for each other.

It is an act of self-giving, made by two people who want to give everything of themselves to the person they love and respect.

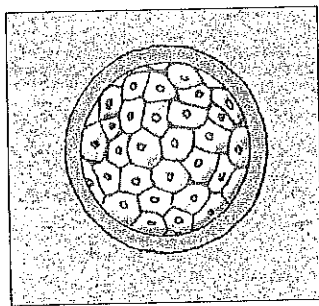
When a couple make love the husband's penis becomes stiff and is placed inside his wife's vagina. Millions of sperm cells are released when the man ejaculates at the peak moment of his sexual arousal. Each sperm cell has a long tail that it uses to swim through the cervix, into the uterus, and eventually into the wife's fallopian tubes.

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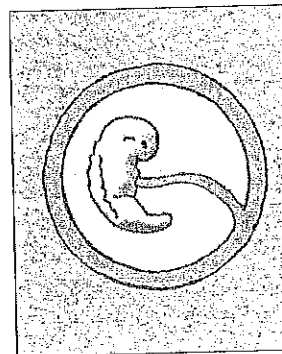


Although a hundred sperm cells may reach the egg cell only one sperm can enter the egg to fertilise it.

(2) Understand how a child grows within the mother's womb.

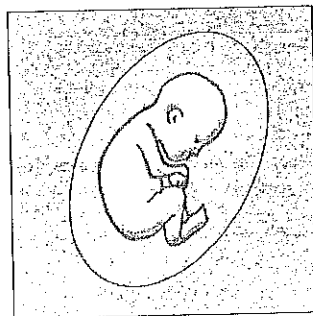


After a few days, the cell divides repeatedly to form a ball of cells.

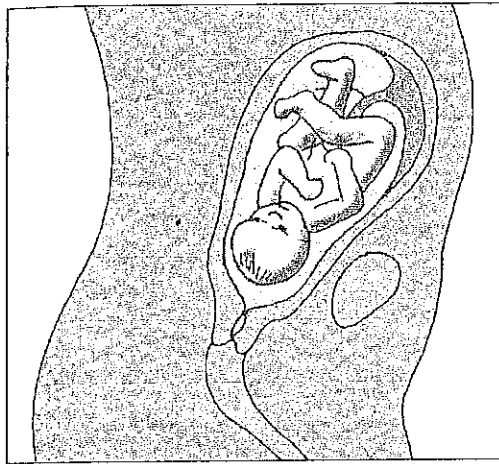


After 8 weeks, the baby has eyes but no eyelids.

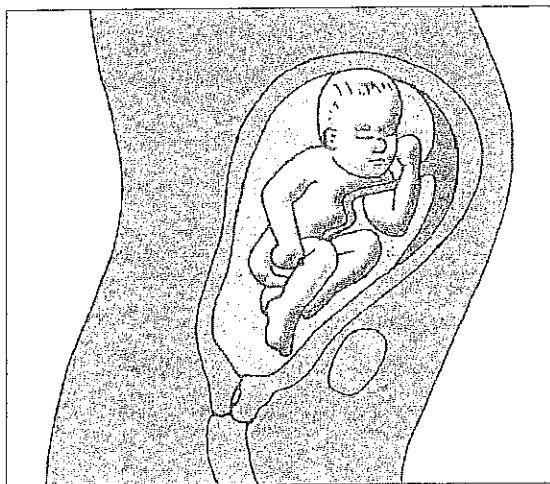
It starts making its first tiny movements, but its mother cannot feel them yet.



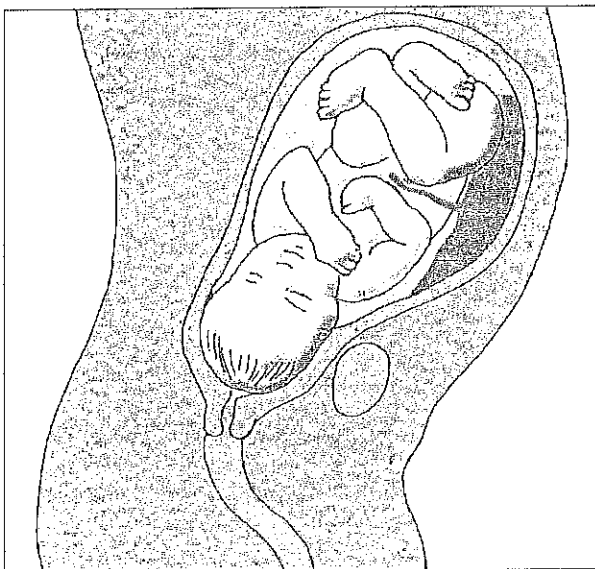
After 16 weeks, the baby begins to swallow and pass urine. It has fingers and toenails. At this stage its skin is bright red and transparent.



After 24 weeks, the baby can hear voices and other sounds from outside its mother. It has some hair and eyebrows and eyelashes. Its skin is very wrinkled.



After 28 weeks, the baby's kicks are quite strong and can be felt by putting a hand on the mother's tummy.



After 36 weeks, the baby has taken up its final position in the uterus. Its lungs are getting ready to take their first breath. The baby continues to get fatter. Some time after 36 weeks, the baby's head is now positioned ready for birth. The baby could arrive any time between 38th and 42nd week of pregnancy.

PAUSE and REFLECT

*For the beauty and gift of love,
We thank you Lord.*

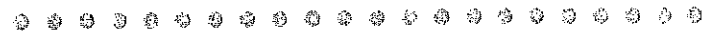
*For mothers and fathers,
We thank you Lord.*

*For doctors and nurses,
We thank you Lord.*

*For all babies and the miracle of
new life,*

We thank you Lord.

Amen.

**EMOTIONAL**

Relationships develop and eventually, you may be able to use the word love.

This has to be explained: real love reveals itself in complete commitment. Often we use the word love too casually, the claim to love someone is a momentous one.

If one is in love with another, certain characteristics follow:

1. Love is caring and sharing with another person. We can love many people. However, two people can be drawn to a love that at its deeper levels become more and more exclusive. Intimacies are shared with the loved one and not with others.
2. There is need for a basis for love, which is not only one-dimensional, such as, a common interest in music, sexual attraction, a shared interest in sport. A basis for love needs to grow and develop, so that, the two people are more and more generous in their shared love.
3. The relationship requires time to mature and develop and ultimately people may decide to get married.

- 4. Without love, relationships will fail because living with another human being means that they will find out exactly what you are like, what kind of person you are (knowledge).
- 5. It comes back to the kind of person you are, and what qualities you bring to that relationship.

PAUSE and REFLECT

Consider ways that enable happy relationships.

Consider ways that relationships can be unhappy.

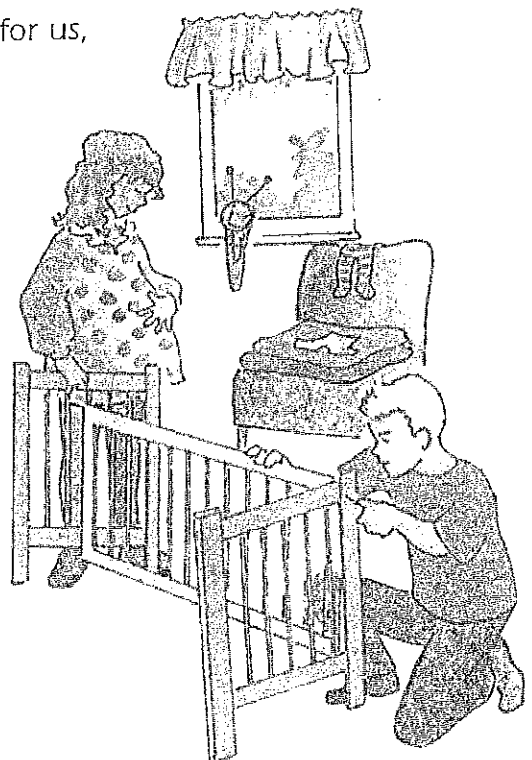
PRAYER

Source of Love, help us to love and respect each other and enjoy the beauty of happy friendships.

Amen.

SOCIAL

- (1) Recognise and compile a list of the signs of love expressed in those around us,
e.g. signs of love between those who care for us, loving couples, older people.
- (2) Reflect on the different degrees of friendship that exist,
e.g. school friends, close friends, best friends, mixed gender friends, life-long friends.



PRAYER

Jesus, our friend and brother, embrace in your love all our friends.

Amen.



SPIRITUAL



- (1) Understand that God causes new life to begin through the love that parents have for each other.
- (2) Celebrate God's creative love in creating us as his children and recognise that we grow as human beings to the extent we give and receive love. The on-going understanding of marriage is living out love.
- (3) As Christians we can appreciate the sheer wonder of the sexual act. God created the incredible natural process by which husband and wife bring new life into the world. The Church celebrates all this in the Sacrament of Marriage.

“Marriage based on exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people and visa versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love.”

Celebration of friendship and life

GATHERING MUSIC

(1) Introduction

We have been thinking and celebrating the joy, wonder and beauty of our journey of love which began when we were conceived, born and supported to this moment.

OPENING PRAYER

Generous God,
We give thanks for the gift of life;
for our mums and dads and
for the gift of being a child of God.

Amen.

(2) Sing... 'MY GOD LOVES ME'. Celebration Hymnal for Everyone no.499

(3) A large candle is lighted reminding us of God's love which called us into being and embraces us at all moments of our lives.

(4) Symbols of our Baptism and our families are placed around the candle.

(5) Samples of our study of God's creative love in this programme are brought forward also.

(6) Reading (JEREMIAH 1:5)

I chose you before I gave you life and before you were born selected you to be a prophet to the nations.

(7) Individual candles are lit from the large candle and children renew their baptismal promises.

(8) **PRAYER**

*We praise and thank you, Lord,
for gifts of life and love.
Help us to use these wisely
as we to continue to journey in love.
Amen.*

(9) Conclude with hymn/song...

'LET THERE BE LOVE
SHARED AMONG US'.

Celebration
Hymnal no.358

