

Coming Up

Celebrate Love

A two day seminar for married couples exploring spirituality and sexuality in the Catholic context.

2009

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|-------------------|-----------|
| Casino, NSW | Jul 18/19 |
| Wellington, NZ | Jul 25/26 |
| Auckland, NZ | Aug 1/2 |
| Perth, WA | Aug 15/16 |
| Mount Isa, QLD | Aug 29/30 |
| Sydney, NSW | Sep 12/13 |
| Newcastle, NSW | Oct 10/11 |
| Batemans Bay, NSW | Oct 10/11 |
| Sydney, NSW | Nov 7/8 |

One day - abridged version
Sydney, NSW July 12

www.CelebrateLove.com.au

Embrace

Preparing to Live in Love

A six session programme for dating or engaged couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church.

Available Now!

Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Perth, Wagga, London

Four formats:

- individual couple-to-couple mentoring
- small home based groups
- large parish based groups
- correspondence (remote areas only)

www.Embrace.org.au

Living Well Media Resources for Catholic Families, Schools & Parishes

Multimedia and print materials featuring Christopher West, Fr Tony Percy, Teresa Pirola and Byron & Francine Pirola

www.LivingWellMedia.com.au

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Knot Yet! #3: Ticking Clocks

We're all familiar with the proverbial 'biological clock' that relentlessly taunts childless women reminding them that their time is running out. It's one of the reasons that women get serious about getting married and starting a family (or just starting a family) at a younger age than do men.

Some recent research however has highlighted that men don't exactly enjoy indefinite virility either. Men reach their fertile prime in their early twenties. After this, sperm count declines slowly to age 45 after which it falls more rapidly. While technically, some men can conceive children into their old age, the reality is that this is very uncommon.

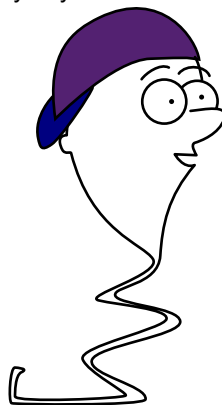
In addition to the decline in the **quantity** of sperm, the **quality** of sperm also diminishes with increasing age. Recent studies of children conceived by fathers over the age of 30 have been found to be at higher risk of Autism, Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder. They are also associated with lower IQs. The effect is slight for men in their late 30s and becomes more significant at older ages*.

Clearly, neither men nor women are spared the ticking of their biological clocks. It's another good reason to question the cultural wisdom of delayed marriage. Maybe its time to stop and rethink: why are we waiting longer only to make it harder?

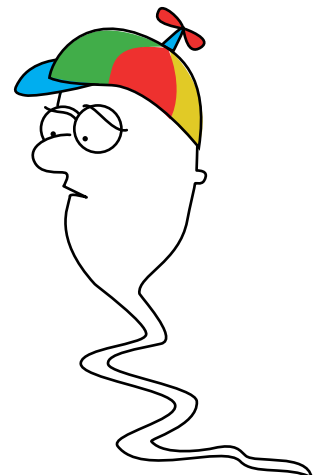
Being married and having children in one's twenties is now met with negative social pressures... but has anyone stopped to ask: what is the advantage of waiting? Life is full of trade-offs and waiting to have children comes with trade-offs just like everything else. So if you're 'single and in love', and marriage and family is part of your long term plan for your life; ask yourself... what are you waiting for?

The Lonely Sperm

I'm one of 100,000.
How many in your family?



Errrr.... I'm an only sperm.
My dad's already 42.



Ref: <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1000040>

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