

Item #105 (Refusal to Believe in the Words of Christ)

At the present time the Catholic Church in the United States and in many other parts of the world

is afflicted with a growing lack of membership. A deliberate refusal of many Catholics to believe in the teaching of the Church would seem to be the basis for much of this lack. This teaching is set forth in good part in the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. The present writer knows of one woman who deliberately planned with her future husband to dedicate her life to a career of raising a large number of children. She was fortunate in having a husband who earned enough money to enable her to stay at home and dedicate herself to raising their large family. She was not afraid to speak of the many sneers she received because of her choice but she replied that after a thousand years all that those who sneered would have would be their sneers, whereas she would have her descendants. This lack of members is reflected in a lack of clergy and a lack of attendance at Mass. A lack of belief in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist as presented in John 6,60-66 is a forecast of these lacks of beliefs. Prayer by all believers is accordingly recommended.

(James Swetnam, S.J., November 16, 2022)