University of Dayton Department of Theological Studies Takes Steps Toward Humanae Vitae Discussion

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In recognizing the efforts of Father Kohmescher and his department, Very Rev. Raymond A. Boesch, S.M., University President, said:

"I commend our Department of Theological Studies for their academic and scholarly approach in preferring to prepare arguments to support a position before they announce it. Scholars have already discovered that the encyclical invites and urges further study because the problem seems to invite two diametrically opposed solutions which are mutually exclusive. Other considerations are indicated, but they must be probed. I endorse the efforts of our faculty to seek out fresh approaches before closing their minds on the controversy. Such is true academic research—an open mind coupled with in-depth study.

"I'm glad they realize that they must first understand all that went into the Pope's document before they can take a position. It is a proper topic for university research. I'm pleased it appeals to our faculty as serious scholars."

Here is Father Kohmescher's full statement on the matter:

"One month ago Pope Paul issued his encyclical "Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life). Since then many theologians and teachers of theology, singly and in groups, have made
statements in regard to the encyclical. The members of the Department of Theological Studies, singly and in groups, have been asked to state their views to the press and elsewhere.

"The Department, through me, has refrained from making any statement even vaguely resembling a departmental stance. Many of our members were not immediately available and it was thought that any representative statement should follow serious discussion in departmental meetings. Now that the faculty have gathered for the 1968-69 academic year the Department of Theological Studies has taken preliminary steps for a full-scale discussion of the encyclical. These discussions will be open to members of other departments at the University.

"It is hoped that these discussions will be mutually beneficial to everyone taking part in them and that they, in some small measure, will carry out the encyclical's directive to promote the discovery of solutions inspired by faith and right reason and to acquire all the knowledge needed in this delicate sector."