

9-15-1998

UD Chancellor Says God Ultimately Should Determine Sex of a Child - Not Fertility Technique

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"UD Chancellor Says God Ultimately Should Determine Sex of a Child - Not Fertility Technique" (1998). *News Releases*. 8955.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/8955

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

**UD CHANCELLOR SAYS GOD ULTIMATELY SHOULD
DETERMINE SEX OF A CHILD — NOT FERTILITY TECHNIQUE**

BUT IT MAY COMPEL COUPLES TO HAVE LESS CHILDREN — A fertility technique that allows parents to select the sex of their child could reduce the number of children they have overall, says the Rev. James Heft, S.M., chancellor and professor of faith and culture at the University of Dayton.

"This (technique) may lead parents to never have more children than they desire because they can now choose a gender of each," says Heft. "Some couples produce many children of the same gender while trying to produce one of the other. If the couple wants only one boy and one girl, as many couples seem to do these days, then this method will probably appeal to them, particularly if they can afford it."

Heft, however, warns of potential abuse: "Parents could, for less than worthy reasons, start programming the gender of their children for ulterior motives. It opens up the chances for a lot of mischief." For example, Heft says, parents may use the technique to manipulate the next generation for "what they believe is important," such as producing another great baseball player in the family or another able body to handle heavy farm chores. "Misused, this method transforms a part of life, a very intimate and sacred part, into something like going to the store and ordering what you want. One more commodification of what should not be commodified."

"To minimize or exclude one gender altogether, which already exists in some cultures today, would upset their balance," Heft adds. "The balance in number between the two has been pretty good when left to God. All things being equal, the choice of gender is best left up to him."

For media interviews, contact **Father James Heft, S.M.**, at (937) 229-2105 or via e-mail at heft@udayton.edu.