

Eighth International Congress of FIAPAC
“Reproductive Health and Responsibilities”
24/25 October 2008 - Berlin, Germany



**Italy: continuous political
interference by the Vatican**



1968-2008 Humanae Vitae

*“Many of the faithful
find difficulty to understand
the message of the Church”*

Benedict XVI

Message in occasion of the 40th anniversary
of Humanae Vitae. 2 October 2008



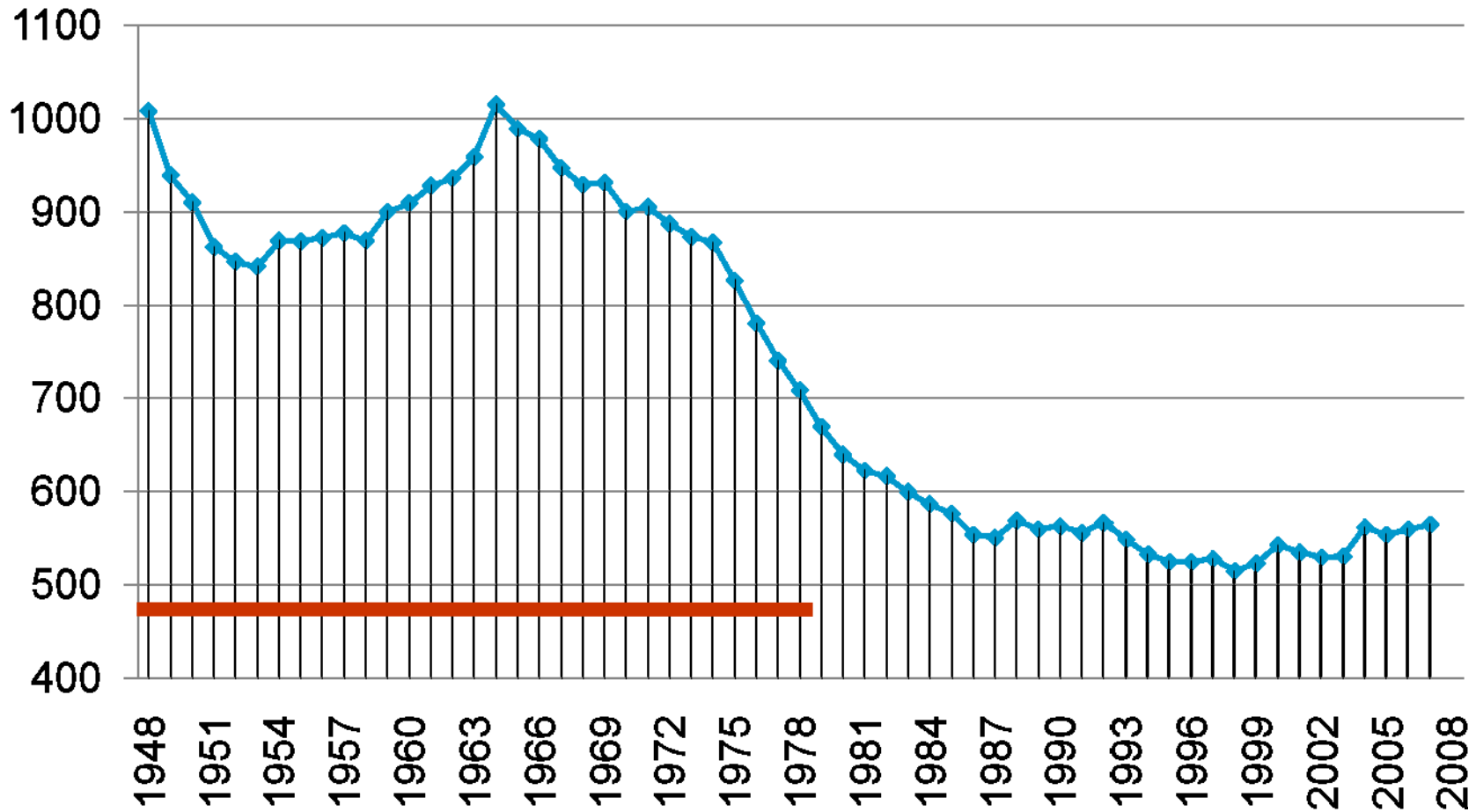
A new glance on sexuality

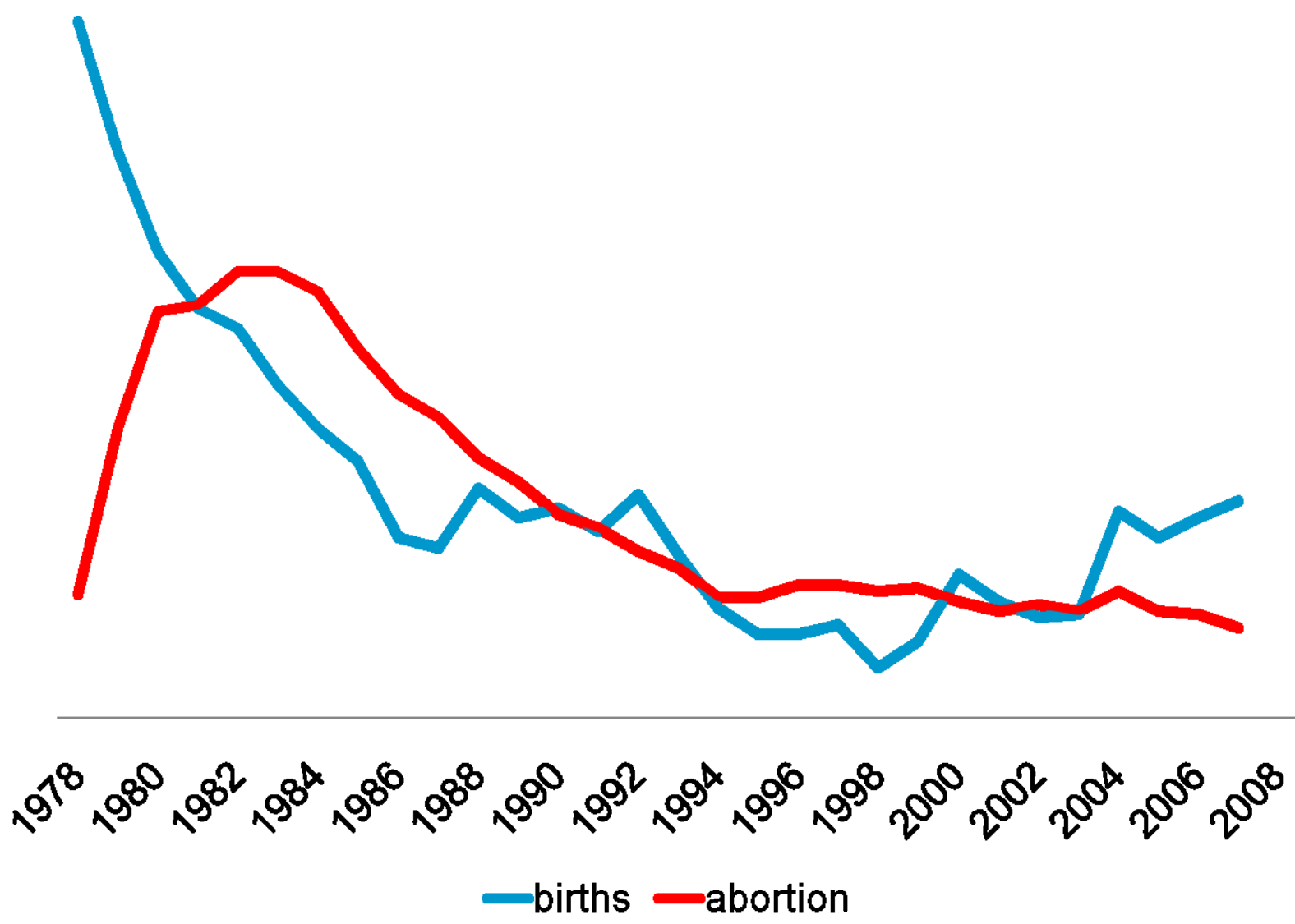
*“Many people don’t take
the Church anymore in earnest
as an interlocutor or as a master”*

Card. C. M. Martini

Martini CM, Sporchill G. “Jerusalemmer Nachtgespräche Über das Risiko des Glaubens.” Herder Spektrum Taschenbücher. 2008

Births in Italy 1948-2007



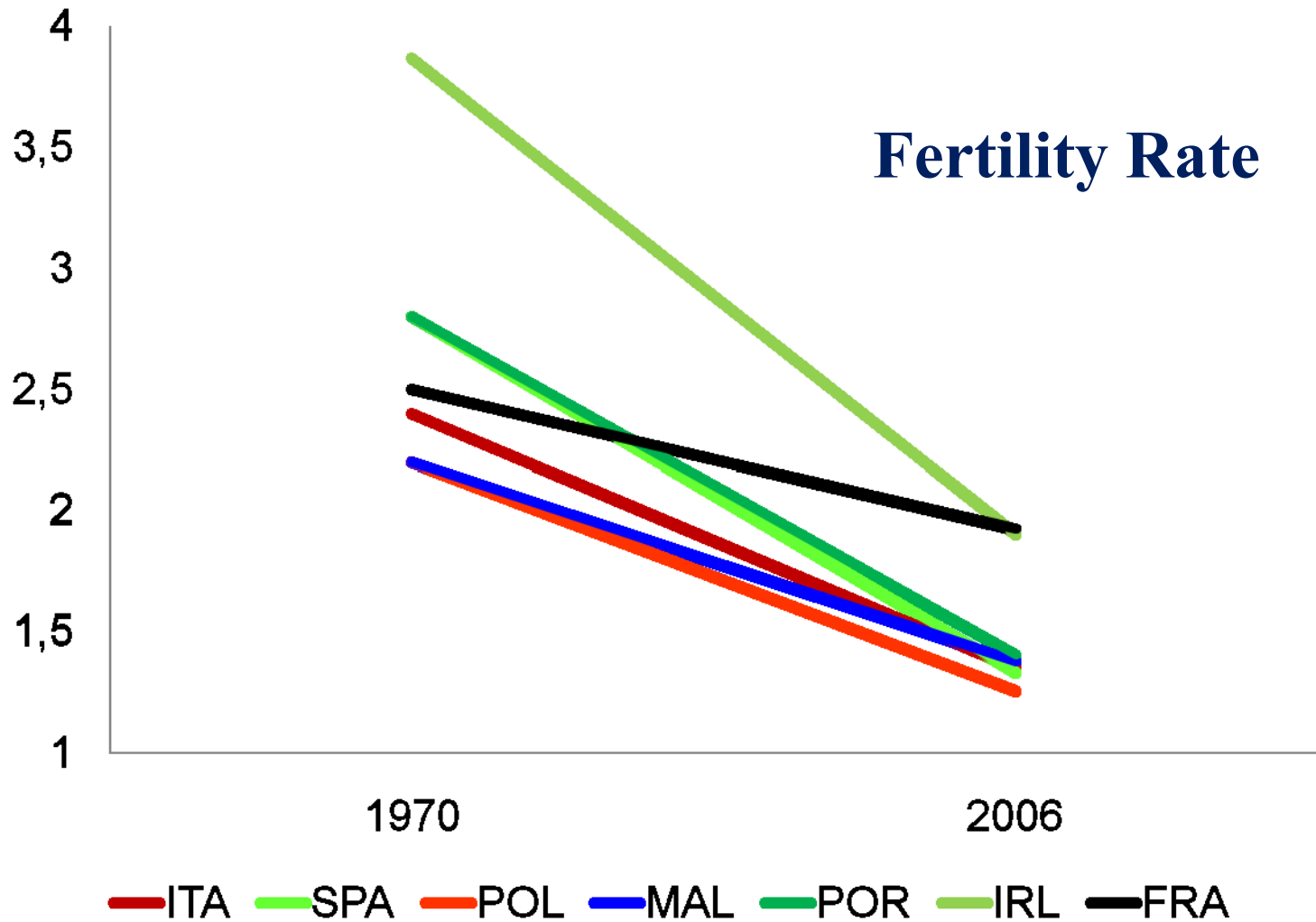





Fertility Rate 1970 - 2007

- **Italy** **– 43,6%** **(2.4/1.35)**
- **Spain** **– 52,5%** **(2.8/1.33)**
- **Poland** **– 43,6%** **(2.2/1.25)**
- **Malta** **– 40,0%** **(2.2/1.37)**
- **Portugal** **– 50,0%** **(2.8/1,4)**
- **Ireland** **– 50,9%** **(3.87/1.9)**
- **France** **– 23,2%** **(2.5/1.9)**
- **Romania** **– 55,0%** **(2.9/1.3)**

European Catholic Countries





Low birth, abortion and contraception rate

- **1.87** **PREGNANCIES**
- **1.35** **Births**
- **0.34** **Abortions**
- **0.18** **Miscarriages**

Low conception rate



“Less Evil” strategy

Since she is aware to be a minority, the Church tries to avoid frontal collision with the majority of Italians and prefers to condition directly politics in order to obtain more restrictions.




The Church doesn't give up

***“The Church won't let herself
to be closed into churches”***

Car. A. Bagnasco

President of Italian Episcopal Conference

“The Church, a People that makes history.” Encounter with Card. A. Bagnasco
President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, Archbishop of Genoa.
29th Meeting for the Friendship among Peoples. Rimini 24 August 2008.

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- ≤ 90 days for “serious” peril
in practice on request)
waiting period of seven days
urgent procedure
 - > 90 days for “grave” peril
2.9% of total
 - Under 18 years 3.2% of total
 - Abortion only in public hospital
 - Conscience clause 70% gynaecol.



Giovanni Berlinguer

“It is not possible to descend the equation abortion as a civil right.”

Giovanni Berlinguer, *La legge sull’aborto*,
Editori Riuniti, Roma 1978.

***“I am morally against abortion,
because I believe that it is the
interruption of a vital ingoing process
that can always give life to a person.”***

Interview to Giovanni Berlinguer by the students of secondary
school “Liceo Classico “Seneca”. Rome 10 January 2001



A sort of immunity

- **In Italy only one woman out of three will have an abortion in her lifetime**
- **Only one woman out of seven will have it before thirty**



Trojan Horse for RU486

Since abortion is allowed only in public hospital, in order to get around political vetoes a “Trojan Horse” of a clinical study was proposed in 2001, started in 2005 and suspended, nearly the end, in 2006 for an investigation on women leaving the hospital after intake of mifepristone.

bollettino d'informazione sui farmaci

ANNO XIV - N. 4 2007

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AGGIORNAMENTI

RU 486: efficacia e sicurezza di un farmaco che non c'è

Il mifepristone (RU 486) è un farmaco attualmente non autorizzato nel nostro Paese. Clononostante, è sempre più oggetto di discussione e interesse, in relazione al suo impiego nell'aborto medico, sia tra gli operatori sanitari potenzialmente coinvolti





**“abortion should be safe,
legal and rare”**

The 1992 Bill Clinton slogan could satisfy both who thinks that abortion is, however, morally wrong and who thinks that woman’s freedom makes abortion, however, morally acceptable

Thank You



Abortion Reduction

