

Contraception is Anti-Self

Christ tells us, that: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). This gives us some insight into the abysmal lack of love in the act of contraception. It so far departs from a willingness to give one’s life for another as to be willing to sacrifice a life for one’s selfish lust. It violates the great commandment of love of others and the sixth commandment of God (cf. CCC, n. 2376).

Spiritually, contraception is profoundly anti-self, inflicting upon oneself the ultimate wound, that abuse of freedom which is called mortal sin. Unrepented, that sin is a bar to eternal life. Aside from guilt and motivation, contraception has its own intrinsic negative dynamics. It is a selfish act, creating a selfish person; a lustful act, creating a lustful person; an exploitative act, creating an exploiting person. It usually becomes a habit, blinding the mind and weakening the will as few other sins do.

It is not surprising that many contracepting Catholics abandon the practice of their Faith or lose their Faith. Many abandon the Sacrament of Penance and add sacrilege to sin by receiving Holy Communion. Also guilty are all formal cooperators who promote or condone contraception, whether confessors, counselors, teachers, doctors, nurses, or others. These also are self-destroyers.

Health Hazards of Contraception

Many contraceptives such as the birth control Pill, IUD, spermicides etc. are actually abortifacients — they cause spontaneous abortions or miscarriages. There are approximately six times as many infant homicides through oral contraceptives as there are surgical abortions (Abortifacient Drugs and Devices: A Short Review, Dr. Bogomir M Kuhar, PharmD, Eternal Life, 902W. Stephen Foster Ave. Bardstown, KY, 40004, USA).

Other health risks and life threaten-

ing consequences include: increased risk of cervical and breast cancers, heart disease, heart attack, stroke, plaque buildup in arteries, pulmonary embolism and blood clotting; high blood pressure, hypertensive disease; migraines, emotional and hormonal disturbances, mood swings, depression; infertility, sterility, gall bladder disease, irregular bleeding or spotting; sexually transmitted diseases, liver tumors, breast tenderness; ectopic pregnancy, increased abortion rates; decreased bone density and libido; yeast overgrowth and infection, weight gain or loss, acne, and nausea (American Life League: http://www.thepillkills.org/pillkills_2.php).

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

NFP, approved by the Church when used for the right/serious (HV) reasons “respects a woman’s fertility, has no bad social consequences, in fact only wonderful ones...Couples will tell you...those who use natural family planning communicate better with each other...It does not say no to God and His procreative act...It enhances, not alienates, the relationship between spouses” (*Ibid.*, Dr. Janet Smith).

Catholics who are contracepting should repent in the Sacrament of Confession. Despite the gravity of their sin, those who have contracepted need not despair. While contraception threatens to bury multitudinous souls in its shroud of hate and death, there remains hope. God knocks at the door of every soul. In His mercy He hears the prayers not only of the innocent but of the penitent. God does not want the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live.

A canon lawyer and theologian, Rev. Msgr. Vincent Foy spent time working in the Archdiocese of Toronto’s Marriage Tribunal, served as Vice Chancellor, ministered to orphans and pastored several parishes. “Msgr. Foy inspired us by his fidelity and personal witness, serving the Lord and all those he encountered most generously,” said Toronto Cardinal Thomas Collins.



Contraception: Why Not?

By Rev. Msgr. Vincent Foy

Sacred Scripture on Contraception

“And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the earth’” (Genesis 1:28).

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate” (Ps. 127:3-5).

Onan “would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring... And what he did was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and He put him to death also” (Gen. 38:9-10).

“It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman. But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband...Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (1 Cor. 7:1-40).

The Catholic Church on Contraception

God and the Catholic Church have always been against contraception. The Church has constantly reiterated Her teaching.

“Married persons are the free and responsible collaborators of God the



Creator” (Humanae vitae [HV] n. 1.) Married persons “collaborate with God in the generation and education of new lives.” (n. 8). The spouses “must conform their activity to the creative intention of God.” (n. 10). The magisterium teaches with the authority of Christ that there is an inseparable connection “willed by God and unable to be broken by man on his own initiative, between the two meanings of the conjugal act: the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning” (HV, n. 12).

“The regulation of births represents one of the aspects of responsible fatherhood and motherhood. Legitimate intentions on the part of the spouses do not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means (for example, direct sterilization or contraception)” (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], n. 2399).

“Periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality. These methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them, and favor the education of an authentic freedom. In contrast, ‘every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible’ is intrinsically evil: Thus the innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife is overlaid, through contraception, by an

objectively contradictory language, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other. This leads not only to a positive refusal to be open to life but also to a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love, which is called upon to give itself in personal totality...” (CCC, n. 2370).

“There are no principles of moral theology that allow a person to engage in actions taught by the Church to be objectively immoral, whether such actions be adultery, contraception, fornication, or sodomy” (Sex and the Marriage Covenant, John F. Kippley, The Couple to Couple league, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1991, p. 145).



The Moral Problem of Contraception

Contraception is anti-God and a revolt against Him. The primary evil of contraception is that it puts up a barrier against God’s creative will, a horrendous crime when seen in all its implications in time and eternity. It is therefore what is called a mortal sin; through denying a possible life to another, the perpetrator kills his or her own soul.

In one sense contraception is worse than abortion. The aborted child will live forever in that degree of happiness which God’s mercy lovingly bestows. The contracepted child, if we can so speak of a child that will never be, but might have been a great saint, is sacrificed to the lust of should-have-been parents.

Contraception Is Against Natural Law and the Church

“The Church has always based its teaching, not on something private to Catholics, but on what is known as Natural Law....Natural Law says that if you want things to prosper, you have to use them in accord with their nature,

or the reality of the thing you’re using...human sexuality has a certain nature and unless you live in accord with that nature, chaos will result...

What is the purpose and meaning and nature of sexual intercourse? ...

It’s quite clear. It’s for two things — for babies and for bonding.

“John Paul II’s observation: ... contraception not only violates the procreative meaning of the sexual act, but also the unitive meaning of the sexual act” (Contraception, Why Not, Janet E. Smith, Ph. D., talk given to Catholic Physicians Guild at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, May 1994).

Contraception is Anti-Woman

Pope Paul VI made several predictions about what would happen if contraceptives became widely available and used in society. Firstly, he said there would be a general lowering of morality; a general disregard for the physical and psychological wellbeing of females by males (HV, n. 17).

Contraception is Anti-Society

“The promotion of the Culture of Life should be the highest priority of our societies...If the right to life is not defended decisively as a condition for all other rights of the person, all other references to human rights remain deceitful and illusory” (St. John Paul II, Feb. 14, 2001).

Fostering the Culture of Life does not only mean respect for life from conception until natural death. It means also repudiation of contraception, the root cause of all other attacks on human life. Contraception, which shows a willingness to sacrifice life to lust, is a fuse, which ignites a whole chain of evils destructive of a just society, from abortion to euthanasia.

The contraceptive mentality promotes sex-education and the resultant corruption of the young. In hospital care it leads to sterilization, abortion, and euthanasia. In the media, it tends toward license, vulgarity, pornography, and increases hostility towards God and religion.

Not least of the self-inflicted wounds caused by the contraceptive mentality is the high economic price. There is the high price tag for contraception, abortion, AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases and family break-ups. There is the high cost of age imbalance, with heavier and heavier burdens placed on the young, who must care for their contracepting elders... Social security systems and pension plans will be inadequate and the standard of living drastically reduced.

Contraception is Anti-Spousal and Anti-Marriage

Contraception degrades married love, defaces it beyond recognition, and transforms it more radically than was Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde. It makes the spouses deadly spiritual enemies of one another. It turns love into hate and does this in manifold ways. Because contraception is a mortal sin, destroying grace in the soul, consent to it means consent of one spouse to the eternal damnation of the other. It is a frightful betrayal to cooperate in the exchange of the gold of grace for the dross of lust.

By contraception one spouse is willing to unfit the other for the reception of Holy Communion, or for any supernatural merit. By contraception one spouse is willing to deny to the other all the great goods which might otherwise come from children and parenting.

When one party persuades the other to contracept, there is an act of seduction. When one objects, but submits under pressure, there is a violation of conscience and person, which is akin to

marital rape. When the contraceptive means are known to be abortifacient, as with the birth-control pill and intrauterine devices, both become murderers by intent.

Finally, if one enters marriage intending to deny to the other the right to that act which of its nature leads to procreation, the union is null and void. The marriage acts become acts of fornication.

Contraception is Anti-Family

Contraception makes a lie of the marriage covenant. There is no longer total self-giving in the marriage act. It no longer symbolizes the union of God with His people or Christ with His Church. It is a broken, defaced mockery of that union. Contraception replaces self-giving love with the hate of marital abuse.

When contraceptives are also abortifacients, as in most cases, the family home becomes a killing ground. Human persons, made in God’s image, are conceived and sent to sewer tombs without the chance to answer God’s call to holiness. It is a direct confrontation with God’s loving co-creating will.

The deliberately childless marriage has anti-family effects of immense proportions, for children are often the bond that cements the parents’ love. An illicitly diminished family also suffers. The children who are born, sometimes unwanted, are love-deprived. They are also deprived of brothers and sisters who should have been but are not. They cannot but be affected by the example of hedonistic parents and a home in which true marital harmony cannot exist.

Added to all this is the high rate of marital breakdown and the massive increase in divorce rates with contraceptive practice. Contraception leads to increased fornication, promiscuity, and adultery.