

August 1969

Letters

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (1969) "Letters," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 36 : No. 3 , Article 21.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol36/iss3/21>

Letters . . .

Dear Sir:

Re: PSYCHIATRIC INDICATIONS FOR
THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES —
John R. Cavanagh, M. D. Linacre,
May 1969

All uses of contraceptives are based on the medical fact that the patient and/or her husband develop anxieties about the hazard of pregnancy. Are we really to believe that the psychiatrist can rationalize the use of contraceptive in his patient whose anxiety may be greater than that of other patients. If the principle is sound, can we not use them to prevent the psychosos? It is a matter of degree. Small cancers we must ignore. Treat only the big ones.

Dr. Cavanagh has repeatedly written about what he thinks of the bad psychological effects of the rhythm of the sexual desires. Some have felt that his data are not conclusive. It would seem to be a relatively simple study to show that on a per capita basis, there are more crazy Catholics than crazy Protestants. Perhaps a better study would be to pit the crazy Catholic rhythm users against the crazy Catholic contraceptive users.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. Tom Nabors, M. D.
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

Re: THE PRACTICE OF RHYTHM FOR
WOMEN WITH IRREGULAR
CYCLES by William F. Colliton, Jr. M.
D. (May 1969)

What Dr. Colliton has rationalized himself to is that if a woman has not ovulated before the 16th day of her cycle, he proceeds to inhibit her ovulation, or perhaps abort her (whichever way the pill works for that particular cycle). It is probable that his regime does not ALWAYS render the woman sterile. Neither does the 20-day

regular contraceptive regime ALWAYS sterilize a woman. The argument here presents therefore fails to distinguish between the moral problem of the woman who takes 20 pills and the woman who takes only 10.

One of the basic natural law-based moral medical principles is: if two or more medications accomplish the same medical end and one is sterilizing and the other is not, the doctor has the obligation to use the non-sterilizing medication. Regular bleeding can be incredibly controlled by giving any progesterone-like drug from 3-5 days during the last week of the cycle. These drugs are not sterilizing.

Certainly, before the Linacre should recommend the use of this regime, competent theological opinion should be obtained on this matter. The theologians must be given full facts. Even those whose theology would not agree with that of "Humanae Vitae", would be forced to admit that the moral principle is the same.

When will the American Catholic ever learn to stop trying to sneak in the back door like a dog with his tail tucked between his hind legs when it comes to moral principles that are inconvenient?

Respectfully submitted
G. C. Tom Nabors, M. D.
Dallas, Texas