May 1986

Resolutions Formulated at the 1985 NFCPG Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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I

Whereas there is a nationwide movement to promote and provide contraception and, implicitly, abortion referral, in the public schools under the guise of medical services for school children, and

Whereas these programs falsely assume that uncontrolled sexual activity, even among immature, children is a natural right and inevitable, and, in so doing, unwittingly encourage sexual activity among students who might otherwise refrain, thus accelerating the breakdown of family life and social morality, and

Whereas, contrary to the claims of birth control promoters, experience shows that the increased use of contraception leads to more sexual activity, more sexually transmitted diseases, more pregnancies, and more abortions, and

Whereas, these programs subject children to the well-known hazards and the immediate and long-term detrimental effects of modern contraceptives,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds urges national, state and local school authorities to protect school children from being turned into a captive audience to be exploited by outside interest groups who are more concerned with social engineering than the health and welfare of the individual student.

II

Whereas very young married and engaged Catholics have been subjected to pervasive influence of contemporary culture which considers children an obstacle to personal fulfillment, and

Whereas, this same culture falsely teaches that responsible parenthood consists in having few or no children, and

Whereas, polls show that with life's experiences, many women past childbearing years regret that they did not have more children, and
and

Whereas families are getting smaller and smaller and are presently below population replacement levels in the United States to the detriment of the future of our country,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds urges the Bishops of the United States, through their educational, marriage preparation, and marriage enrichment programs, to renew and reaffirm the age-old teaching of the Judeo-Christian tradition from the Book of Genesis onward that children are a blessing; that, as Jesus taught, whosoever welcomes a little child in His name welcomes Him; and that, in accepting the blessing of children, young Catholic couples contribute not only to their own and their family’s future happiness, but also to the vitality and enrichment of the larger family of society.

III

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of the United States have the statutory obligation to provide accurate epidemiologic data to the medical profession, and

Whereas the public health problems associated with induced abortion and long term use of oral steroids are widely reported in the world’s medical literature, and

Whereas the publications from the CDC uniformly portray an unrealistically sanguine picture of medical problems associated with abortion and oral contraception,

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guild calls upon the Surgeon General to review the CDC publications on abortion surveillance and on the side effects of oral steroids to ascertain their level of objectivity and their conformity with the consensus of the world’s medical literature on the same subjects.

IV

Whereas the Supreme Court has accepted for review the Pennsylvania case of Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Illinois case of Diamond v. Charles, and

Whereas these cases propose important changes in current state abortion laws, particularly in the areas of informed consent and protection of viable fetuses, and

Whereas the Department of Justice has submitted a brief in support of the Illinois and Pennsylvania cases and has called upon

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the Supreme Court for the reversal of the Roe v. Wade philosophy. Therefore, be it resolved that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guild commends those who have defended these laws in the lower courts and the Reagan administration which has supported them at the Supreme Court level. We join with those who support these reforms as the first steps toward the complete reversal of abortion on demand.

V

Whereas food and water are basic necessities of life, and Whereas there is a movement to classify food and water as forms of medical treatment, and Whereas such a classification would allow unwarranted control of the sustenance of elderly and terminally ill patients, Therefore, be it resolved that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guild opposes any attempt to change the traditional concept of food and water as modalities of ordinary care owed to all patients.