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Letters to the Editor

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Letters to the Editor . . .

Brief communications are welcome and will be printed as space permits, subject to the usual editing.

TO THE EDITOR:

Among other serious challenges to the natural moral law grounded in the Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition is the current discussion concerning artificial contraception and necessary family limitation as part of international and local anti-poverty programs. An indication that essential principles, previously accepted as fundamental in moral philosophy, are being gravely challenged by some Catholic scholars is shown by two widely circulated advertisements.

Herder & Herder, a leading Catholic publishing house, is marketing the book, *Contraception and Holiness—The Catholic Predicament*. An ad in the *New York Times* states in part: "(The authors) urge the Roman Catholic Church to review its natural law view that artificial birth control is 'intrinsically evil' and argue that a change in the Church's position 'does not involve her infallibility'." The current anniversary issue of *The New Republic* has another ad asserting: "(The authors) believe that . . . the ultimate determination of methods for limiting births should be left to the enlightened consciences of the individual married couples."

If the above ad statements were presented to representative Catholic College alumni for comment as to "true or false," is there much doubt how the majority would answer? Shouldn't responsible Catholic publications meet critical assaults which seriously attack primary principles central to Catholic philosophy and theology? After all, a dubious principle or doubtful law is not applicable to judge the morality of conjugal acts—*ergo*????

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TO THE EDITOR:

With reference to the letter of Dr. André J. de Béthune in the November 1964 issue of *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*, may I call to your attention the series on Papal Teachings published by the Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Ave., Jamaica Plain, Boston 30, Mass. Their volume, *Matrimony*, brings together all the statements of the modern Popes on the subject.

The talks of Pius XII referred to [Dr. de Béthune would like to see the "norms" of Pius XII referred to in his addresses he called the "regulation of births" published] are carried on pages 405, 434 and 513.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John C. Knott
Director, Family Life Bureau
N.C.W.C., Washington, D. C.

Cf also: The series prepared by the Monks of Solemnnes. It is translated by the Daughters of St. Paul (address above). The volume you want is *The Human Body*.