

November 1985

Letters ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (1985) "Letters ...," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 52 : No. 4 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq/vol52/iss4/1>



A Clarification, A Compliment

To the Editor:

In the May, 1985, issue of the *Quarterly*, Dr. Robert O'Donoghue, in his *Letter From Ireland*, makes the point that "When President John Kennedy was here in 1964 he was able to walk apparently unprotected among the people on many occasions." I expect he was, being invisible. As I remember, the President died tragically in November, 1963. Ah, well, even Jove nods now and again.

May I compliment you on a thoroughly excellent *Quarterly* - a very valuable resource.

Mrs. L.M. Cushing
Ontario, Canada

A Priest/Pharmacist Comments

To the Editor:

The medical profession frequently raises questions about the safety and effectiveness of the so-called "contraceptive" pill. But very often its real harmfulness and true physical effect are ignored.

For instance, many people continue to think that the pill is a contraceptive, but that is no longer true. Since the late 70's, the so-called "new pill" is in fact not a contraceptive at all, but an abortifacient. That is, it causes the death of the conceived fetus.

More accurately, what is called "The Pill" is really antinidatory, which means that the woman taking it still ovulates and conceives, but the fetus can't "nest." (Nidatory comes from the Latin word *nidus*, which means nest.) It's as if her womb had an ejector spring in it that automatically triggered as soon as something... a fertilized egg, an unfertilized egg, whatever... were to try to nest in it. That is the physical effect of the pill. Or to use another example, the womb can be compared to a catcher's mitt. Under normal circumstances, the mitt holds the ball (the egg or fertilized egg) when the catcher catches the pitch. But the womb of a woman on the pill is like a catcher's mitt with a lining of cement. The ball hits the mitt and bounces right out again.

Of course, that's no way to play baseball, and certainly no way to deal with human life. The literature included with any bottle of the pill clearly states: "prevents implantation." Although the term "contraceptive" is used in the loose sense, it is really a misnomer.

By using today's so-called oral contraceptive, therefore, some people could be destroying one fetus a month without knowing it. And the situation becomes more tragic since the entire process is so cold, painless, and implacable.

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