

LIFE NOTES

July 2013

Pro Life Topics

Contraception



The Historic Christian Teaching - Few realize that up until 1930, *all* Protestant denominations agreed with the Catholic Church's teaching condemning contraception as sinful. At its 1930 Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Church, swayed by growing social pressure, announced that contraception would be allowed in *some* circumstances. Soon the Anglican Church completely caved in, allowing contraception across the board. Since then, all other Protestant denominations have followed suit. Today, the Catholic Church alone proclaims the historic Christian position on contraception. In 1968, Pope Paul VI issued his landmark encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae* (Latin, "Human Life"), which reemphasized the Church's constant teaching that it is always intrinsically wrong to use contraception to prevent new human beings from coming into existence. (catholicanswers.com)

CONTRACEPTION, ARTIFICIAL: The use of mechanical, chemical, or medical procedures to prevent conception from taking place as a result of sexual intercourse; contraception offends against the openness to procreation required of marriage and also the inner truth of conjugal love. Catholic Catechism (2370)

What does the Bible have to say? In Genesis, we find the story of Onan, the second son of Judah, who married Tamar, the widow of his older brother Er. (The Levirate law of Judaism prescribed that if the oldest brother died, the next oldest, single brother would marry his widow to preserve the family line.) The Bible reads, "Onan, however, knew that the descendants would not be counted as his; so whenever he had relations with his brother's widow, he wasted his seed on the ground, to avoid contributing offspring for his brother. What he did greatly offended the Lord, and the Lord took his life." (Cf. Genesis 38:1ff). Here is a basic form of contraception, withdrawal, and clearly a sin in the eyes of God. (catholiceducation.org)

Myth: *Contraception is basic health care.*

Facts: Contraception is an elective intervention that stops the healthy functioning of healthy women's reproductive systems. Medically it is infertility, not fertility that is generally considered a disorder to be treated. (Please refer to usccb.org for remaining text)

Suggested Monthly Penance

Give up drinking caffeinated beverages for 30 days in the name of someone you know who uses artificial contraception.

Knowing the side effects of using artificial contraception and knowing that it is "always intrinsically wrong to use contraception to prevent human beings from coming into existence, that those who indulge in such use are branded with the guilt of a grave sin" and knowing that use of artificial contraception is "clearly a sin in the eyes of God", what possible valid reason is there for anyone to use artificial contraception?

Monthly Prayer

Oh Blessed Mother Mary, mother of the human family, we beg you for the grace that we may read, understand, and be open to the prophetic teaching of *Humanae Vitae* and rediscover the constant Church teaching on Contraception. Give us the grace to understand that, by disregarding these teachings, we participate in the deceptive message of the secular world, that we too can be god. Give us the grace to teach others how contraception is a lie set to ruin and falsify the meaning of the human family. Give us Wisdom of how God is "outside of time" and can repair any damage done by past cooperation in contraception, in any form, if we pray to Him for that reparation.

We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Saint Gianna Molla, pray for us.

**Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary,
pray for us.**