

Dr Janet Smith on Contraception

It was not until 1930 that the Anglican Church went on record as saying that contraception was permissible, for grave reasons, within marriage.

Catholic Church has been "clear and constant" in its position on contraception, throughout its whole history.

In the early sixties there were perceptions of a population problem and growing sentiments that it would be inhumane for the Church to continue with a "policy" that promoted large families.

Feminists argued that not having children — would enhance access to careers.

When *Humanae Vitae* was released in July, 1968, it went off like a bomb.

Soon theologians and eventually lay people were dissenting not only about contraception but also about homosexuality, masturbation, adultery, divorce and many other issues.

The Church continually reiterates its opposition to contraception as a great moral wrong.

I think the experience of the last many decades has revealed

that the Church has been very wise on opposing contraception.

Contraception facilitates the sexual revolution which leads to much unwanted pregnancy and abortion. It has made women much more open to sexual exploitation by men.

The millions of abortions over the last decade and the phenomenal spread of AIDS alone indicate that we have serious problems with sexuality.

*In the 1930's Pope Pius XI stated in **Casti Connubii**:*

No reason, however grave, may be put forward by which anything intrinsically against nature may become conformable to nature and morally good. Since, therefore, the conjugal act is destined primarily by nature for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose, **sin against nature** and commit a deed which is shameful and intrinsically vicious.

There is an unbreakable connection between the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning of the conjugal act, and both are inherent in the conjugal act.

Sex is for babies and for bonding; if people are not ready for babies or bonding they ought not to be engaging in acts of sexual intercourse.

The modern age tends to treat babies as burdens and not as

gifts.

We speak about "accidental pregnancies" as if getting pregnant were like getting hit by a car — some terrible accident has happened to us. But the truth is that if a pregnancy results from an act of sexual intercourse, this means that something has gone right, not that something has gone wrong.

Babies are treated as an unwelcome intrusion on the sexual act.

Women now take a "pill" to thwart their fertility, **as if fertility were a disease** against which we need a cure. Contraception treats the woman's body as if there were something wrong with it.

The use of contraception suggests that **God made a mistake** in the way that He designed the body and that we must correct His error

Let us not fail to mention that many forms of contraception are abortifacients;

Contraception, then, enters a note of tremendous negation into the act of sexual intercourse.

But lovemaking should be a most wonderful act of *affirmation*, This is conveyed by making a **total gift of one's self** to another.

But we forget what a marvellous thing it is to be able to bring forth a new human being.

God wishes to share His creation with new human souls, and brings new souls into the world through the love of men and women for each other.

When a man and women have a child together, it's an act that changes the cosmos: something has come into existence that will never pass out of existence; each soul is immortal and is destined for immortal life.

In sexual intercourse, spouses provide God with an opportunity to perform His creative act.

Contraception says no to God; it says those using it want to have the wonderful physical pleasure of sex but do not want to allow God to perform His creative act. Contraception also means that the 'I do' the couple say to each other on their wedding day becomes a very emphatic 'I don't'.

But contraception is wrong not only because it violates the procreative meaning but also because it **violates the unitive meaning** of the sexual act.

The couple's love for each other is a pretence when their fertility is withheld through contraception. They **lie with their bodies**.