

# PAUL, THE PILL, AND PEOPLE

**THE HAGUE** — "The majority of Dutch Roman Catholics (63%) have rejected Pope Paul's ban on birth control. Twenty percent agree with the ban and 17% have not made up their minds. These figures from a survey carried out two-and-a-half weeks after the publication of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* are an indication of the extent to which the Pope's authority has been undermined in Holland." Sue Masterman, *The Defiant Dutch* in the *Globe and Mail*.

**WASHINGTON** — "Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle to dissenting Washington area Roman Catholic priests Tuesday they must accept Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control or face some form of penalties." — *American Press*.

**WASHINGTON** — Rev. T. Joseph O'Donaghue, assistant pastor of St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church has been suspended by Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington "for insubordination and because he was continuing to give scandal and disturbing and confusing the faithful". Father O'Donaghue has publicly criticized the Pope's encyclical on birth control.

**WINNIPEG** — Canadian assembly of bishops issue statement saying birth control is a matter of individual conscience.

**ANTIGONISH** — A group of priests from Saint F.X.'s issue statement declaring birth control as a matter of personal conscience.

**WASHINGTON** — A number of parishioners walk out while Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle is preaching on birth control.

**SUMMERSIDE** — Speaking on the birth control issue, Monsignor O'Hanley, pastor of Paul's Church, Summerside, said, "For Catholics the case is closed — Rome has spoken."

**LONDON** — Enraged Catholics fight with each other over the pill issue outside Westminster Cathedral.

As we all believe, the world and man were created eons ago by God, possibly as a small tribute to His Own infinite glory. He endowed man with a healthy body, a creative mind and a free will, and placed him in the world, as He might place a sculptor before a piece of unmolded clay. It is up to man then, up to each man and woman today, to fashion and shape the world into a livable place, wherein man's God-given strength and beauty can be maintained and enhanced. There is however, one hangup, and it is quite a major one: millions of people today consider man to be a fallen and perpetually weak animal, receiving his only strength from faith and his only happiness in obedience and servitude. And many have

abandoned hope of happiness or meaningful effort because of this long-condition: Knowledge".

The question then, must be answered by each of us today: Will I consider death the only blessing in life, or have I the strength to join my comrades in the construction of a world-situation not barely adequate but positively beneficial to the elevation and strengthening of mankind. Can I allow myself to go on sighing my way through life, avoiding the difficult, perpetually letting go and giving in, forever kneeling before my fellow man? Let us hope that we have not fallen to such depths of world-weariness.

Alright, granted that ALL men are weak and fallen, whether of man's basic nature, or through man's own fault; still acknowledgement of this statement can never release you, and me, and every MAN from the shame, **real shame** involved in such an admission of personal weakness. Assuming that we all agree (excepting those whose lives are prolonged death-desires and who look eagerly forward to death), that this fallen state is already an unfortunate state of affairs, it is obvious that no one would wish to deliberately worsen matters, that is, to deliberately make man weaker.

Now let us consider the much-publicized birth control issue in the light of what has already been said in this article and in the light of the recent encyclical issued by Pope Paul VI. In his letter "On the Regulation of Birth," the Pope declares that the "teaching authority of the Church is competent to interpret even the natural moral law" for believers. As well-known however, the Church's interpretation of natural moral law is basically a reiteration of the interpretation forwarded by St. Thomas Aquinas; who, though undoubtedly a very holy man, was definitely a very un-Divine man and a very celibate man. As a man of the robe, Thomas very probably regarded the pleasures of the flesh as basically sinful, as least so far as he himself was concerned. It is just as probably true that this very factor was responsible for his inability to separate the unitive and procreative values of the conjugal act. To a man of his holy psyche, the unitive value could not but hold sinful implications, justifiable only insofar as the act was potentially procreative. And from this basic line of reasoning follows the conclusion that the pill and other artificial contraceptives are against the divine order.

It follows, then, though the Church's adoption of the stand of St. Thomas on moral law is a strong compliment to its apparent validity that the Thomist interpretation of natural moral law or Divine Order remains a strictly human interpretation, and is liable both to error and to

change. It can now be shown that the Pope's indictment of artificial birth control is an influence detracting from man's possible strength as a race. Consideration of the future effects of the church's declaration, on the individual and on mankind generally, will show that the letter is a document worthy of consideration, but unworthy of obedience.

It is today accepted as fact, and very important fact that the unitive value of the conjugal act is very high, and that unless a regular and healthy sexual relationship is maintained between the marriage partners, the relationship as a whole may be endangered. Let it be accepted now that if for some reason children are unwanted by a married couple, the most effective device for the elimination of the possibility of procreation which at the same time allows for a healthy and satisfying sex relationship, is the modern birth control pill. But the pill has been condemned by the Pope in his recent encyclical. What alternatives are left to those right-wing Catholics who choose to heed the Pope's words? They can practice rhythm, they can completely avoid sex, or they can take their chances. Ask any married woman about the reliability of rhythm; she will almost certainly reply that it is almost completely undependable. So the couple that has four kids, a bungalow, a six-year-old car, and an income of \$3500 practices rhythm because the Pope said so, and lives in the constant fear that the wife will conceive. Or they, can abstain altogether; at which point their relationship will probably begin to collapse. But that's the way it goes — the Pope states the law and Catholics obey it. Or they can take their chances; and fear reduces the man of the family to impotence and his wife to frigidity.

Have I chosen an extreme case? Have I exaggerated the dangers hidden in the Pope's words? NOT AT ALL! There are presently thousands of Catholics experiencing just such fears as I have mentioned; and these people are being weakened by their dogged obedience to the letter of the law. Every child such couples bear (and there will be many) is an addition to the present millions of starving, unclothed, uneducated children hidden in the poor countries of the world. And each new child, over whom weakness hangs like a shroud till his death, is a threat, a very real threat to the over-all strength of the human race. Have we not already agreed that is desirable to build a strong human race? Can we, as strong, responsible human beings, allow the Pope's condemnation of the pill, which follows from a strictly human interpretation of the natural moral law, to interfere with a more humane ideal, the development of a healthy and beautiful, yes, beautiful human race.



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Prof. R. Black	Prof. F. Gross
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## Student Discipline Committee

The Student Discipline Committee held its initial meeting on October 4, 1968. This year the committee is comprised of the following members: Eric Dunn (Chairman), Robert Pierce (Proctor, Main Bldg.), Len Gaudet (Proctor, Memorial), Terry Clinton (Proctor, Dalton), John McAleer (Senior Representative), Richard MacDonald (Junior Representative), Jim Cussack (Sophomore Representative), Freshman Representative to be named later, Wayne MacDougall (Chief of Campus Police), A. J. MacLeod (Chief of Security Police), the last two members have no voting status.

The committee laid down a fine system, which is to be in effect for this year. Infractions not listed will be dealt with as they come up. The fine system is as follows:

Drunk and disorderly: \$10.00-\$50.00.  
Damage to property: Damages plus 1/2 the cost (not to exceed \$50.00).  
Striking a Campus Policeman: \$100.00.  
Disorderly conduct: \$10.00-\$50.00.  
Assault: \$10.00-\$50.00 and/or referral to Security Police.  
Theft: under \$25.00 — Replacement plus 1/2 the amount stolen (minimum of \$5.)  
Illegal possession: \$5.00-\$25.00.

A person can appear before this Committee for infractions occurring on or off campus. Anyone can file a complaint, or charge with the Chairman, Chief of Security Police, Director of Student Affairs, or any other member of this Committee.