

Badin - Oh, Badin!  
Where art thou? 8%

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
May 28, 1951

A Remarkable Editorial on Birth Control.

Our attention has been called of an editorial on the Birth Control Movement, by Benedict Elder, in The Catholic Record, of Louisville, issue of April 2. It is a splendid piece of work, and we hope that Mr. Elder will reproduce it in pamphlet form. While it is too long for publication here, we venture to present a few of its striking points. It was occasioned by an editorial in the Louisville Times which endorsed birth control and hailed the recent stand of the Federal Council of Churches as "an expression of advanced civilization." Mr. Elder entitles his editorial, "A Throwback to Paganism," and proceeds to show that birth prevention is just that.

"There is nothing either advanced or civilized," he says, "either sensible or constructive about contraception; it is merely immoral. Both Latin and Greek writers tell us that the pagans knew all about it. The Scriptures show how the Egyptians practiced it, and enslaved the Hebrews and oppressed them because the Hebrew women feared God and would not violate nature at the command of Pharaoh....."

"In the Hammurbitan code, written 2300 years before Christ, the women who practiced what is now called birth control are designated "sisters of the gods"; they correspond to the prostitutes of modern society -- until these later years the only exponents of the practice known to Christian civilization. How vapid, then, to call the endorsement of this ancient pagan practice an 'expression of advanced civilization.'"

"It is a counterfeit in the first place to use the term birth control as signifying the control of birth. The term intentionally is misleading and deceptive; it was not coined to express anything modern or new but rather to delude and quiet the sense of shame which among faithful Christians, as among God-fearing Jews, revolts at a practice that was the hall-mark of paganism in ancient times.

"There is no possibility of man's controlling birth; the utmost that lies within his greatest knowledge and skill is to prevent birth, which he can do, through contraception, abortion or murder, as need be. The Author of life has indeed entrusted to man such power that he is able to prevent life, even to take life! but God alone can give life; He alone can determine when, how, of whom or in what condition children shall be born. Man can control himself, or he can indulge himself and by his willful act, even in defiance of God, prevent children being born, but he is powerless to cause them to be born, except as He wills by Whom all things were made and without Whom was made nothing that was made.

"Let us have done, then, with all vain and deceitful talk about 'regulating' births, 'controlling' births and similar dissimulations of what is nothing more or less than voiding nature. As for the means, let them be 'respectable' or not, 'scientific' or not, the immorality of the thing is not lessened. Murder is murder whether it be accomplished by a bludgeon or a blade; likewise the willful and deliberate prevention of human life when natural conditions are ripe for another human life, is a crime against God and the race, regardless of the 'science' employed.

".... There is no real good which the advocates of contraception predicate which is not to be achieved by self denial. It is because they are unwilling to practice self denial, because they want to have their cake and eat it too, because, in short, they are cheaters, that the advocates of contraception seek vain excuses..... As a mere matter of sportsmanship, birth control is the graceless, sensual, enervating practice of the man who 'has got his' and refuses to carry on. It makes the gladiator and the parasite and is an alien and shameful thing in a virile race - detestable above all in a nation that boasts the greatest hoard of wealth ever accumulated by man and only forty persons to the square mile!"

PRAYERS: Continue prayers for Mr. Courtney, and add Sheridan to the list; he went to the hospital yesterday. A deceased cousin of the Dolzals. Six special intentions.