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Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

multiplied (not merely increased) in any woman who uses the pill. For those over 40, the death rate is much higher.

And heart attack is not the only death risk increase associated with the pill. Women who use the pill run the increased risk of pulmonary embolism and cerebral thrombosis as well, according to a British study quoted in a recent Planned Parenthood article. In the same article, PP says: "Furthermore, recent studies suggest that the range of vascular diseases affected by oral contraceptive use and the size of the associated risks may be greater than previously recognized." (Emphasis added.)

In addition to the warnings now printed for pill users, physicians are warning separately. The death factor is discussed in more accurate detail. The pill should be discontinued at least four weeks prior to any surgery which carries the threat of blood clotting. There is a higher proportion of abnormal pregnancies among pill users than among non-users. The pill may alter results of various diagnostic tests. The pill has harmful effects on the gall bladder.

Unlike NFP, which the priest saw as ineffective, there is the risk of death associated with the pill. For a three-page report (Perspectives 2-77) I urge you to send 50 cents and a stamped self-addressed envelope to me: P.O. Box 8450, Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

Next: Measures discussed by Planned Parenthood.

Priests Council Votes On Neumann Move

At the opening of this month's session of the Priests Council, Father James Marvin, president, offered a tribute to Basilian Father Albert Gaelens who is leaving next month to take up a new post in Texas. Following a solid round of applause, Father Gaelens responded to a request for "words of wisdom." "It uh was an experience uh the council," he said. Meeting last week at Becket Hall, the council approved only one resolution, that of calling on the Holy Father to proclaim saint-to-be Bishop John Neumann as patron of vocations in the United States.

Father Leonard Kelly has been named Executive Secretary of the council.

In other council action, the priests were presented, with information on the Diocesan Building Commission by Chancellor Father William Flynn and several lay members of the commission.

Sister Roberta Tierney and Msgr. George Cocuzzi fielded observations and questions from the council on the recently released preliminary report of the Urban School Ministry Task Force. The council's remarks will be submitted to the task force in writing this week.

Belgian Priest To Visit Here

A Belgian missionary who has spent 27 years in Japan will visit Rochester relatives next week on his way home to Ardoois, West Flanders.

Father Francis S. Sercu, CICM, will stay at the home of Engelbert E. Sercu in Laurelton Road and will visit a cousin at the Carmelite Monastery. He served as a parish priest for 22 of his years in Japan, and for the past five years has been procurator at a Catholic school in Himeji. He is on furlough.

Two of Father Sercu's sisters and two of his aunts entered the Carmel order. One aunt was Mother Superior at a convent in Pnom Penh, Cambodia, until the communist takeover forced her return to Belgium.

The very day on which I received much of the following information, a young priest said that he would not recommend Natural Family Planning (NFP) "...because I am not convinced that it is effective." He added that he does accept and teach contraception, because "...the pill meets the needs of our developing society, allowing us to understand alternate life styles. And polls show wide acceptance. Really, the pill is effective."

Unlike Natural Family Planning (which is NOT the old rhythm system) there is the unmistakable risk of death associated with the pill. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control: for the average woman 30-39 years of age, the normal death rate from myocardial infarction is 5.4 deaths per 100,000 women; for those 30-39 who are on the pill, that figure jumps to 15.1 deaths per 100,000. If the women in the 30-39 age group have high blood pressure, or if they smoke, or if they have any other "predisposing condition," the normal death rate from MI is 14.3 deaths per 100,000 women; but if this group is on the pill, the death rate is 40 deaths per 100,000. The risk of death from MI is greatly

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