

# Science Facts on Contraception

IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

The world's leading experts resolve the issues regarding the systematic, nationwide distribution of artificial contraceptives.

## 1. The pill and the IUD kill babies.

*When does human life begin?* At fertilization, when the sperm penetrates the egg. This was the unanimous response of medical experts (including doctors from Harvard Medical School and the Mayo Clinic) at an eight-day hearing of the US Senate.<sup>1</sup>

*Do birth control pills and the IUD kill the embryo?* Yes, the pill has secondary “post-fertilization effect,” according to the scientific journal of the American Medical Association.<sup>2</sup> The *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* pronounced that the intrauterine device brings about the “destruction of the early embryo.”<sup>3</sup>

## 2. The pill injures women's health.

*Is the pill safe?* No. The International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2007 reported that the pill causes cancer, giving it the highest level of carcinogenicity, the same as cigarettes and asbestos.<sup>4</sup> It also causes stroke,<sup>5</sup> and significantly increases the risk of heart attacks.<sup>6</sup>

## 3. The contraceptive lifestyle destroys the family.

*Will the greater availability of contraception improve the conditions of the family?* No. Contraceptives bring about the downgrading of marriage, more extramarital sex, more fatherless children, more single mothers, according to the studies of Nobel prize winner, George Akerlof.<sup>7</sup>

1 Subcommittee Report, S-158, 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session 1981, 7.

2 Larimore and Stanford (2000). “Post-fertilization effects of oral contraceptives and their relationship to informed consent” *Arch Fam Med* 9 (2): 126-33.

3 Stanford and Mikolajczyk (2005). “Mechanisms of action of intrauterine devices: Update and estimation of post-fertilization effects.” *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* (W.B. Saunders Comp) 187: 1699-1708.

4 “Combined Estrogen-Progestogen Contraceptives.” IARC *Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans* 91. 2007

5 Kemmeren, et al. (2002). “Risk of Arterial Thrombosis in Relation to Oral Contraceptives (RATIO) Study: Oral Contraceptives and the Risk of Ischemic Stroke.” *Stroke* (American Heart Association, Inc.) 33:1202-1208.

6 Baillargeon, McClish, Essah, and Nestler (2005). “Association between the Current Use of Low-Dose Oral Contraceptives and Cardiovascular Arterial Disease: A Meta-Analysis.” *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* (*The Endocrine Society*) 90 (7): 3863-3870.

7 Akerlof, Yellent and Katz (1996), “An Analysis on Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing in the United States.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (*The MIT Press*) 111 (2): 277-317

#### **4. Condoms promote the spread of AIDS.**

*Will the use of condoms lower the rate of HIV/AIDS in a country? It will increase it, according to the “best evidence” in the world, concluded Harvard Director for AIDS Prevention, Edward C. Green. Availability of condoms makes people take wilder sexual risks, worsening the spread of the disease.<sup>8</sup>*

#### **5. Population control is based on wrong economics.**

*Is there a correlation between population growth and economic development? “No clear correlation” is the answer of Simon Kuznets, Nobel Prize winner in the science of economics.<sup>9</sup> Many later studies confirmed this.*

*Is population control one of the ingredients for high economic growth? No. Population control is not among the five ingredients found by the 2008 Commission on Growth and Development headed by Nobel Prize winner Michael Spence. The growth factors are: governance, openness to knowledge, stable finances, market allocation, investment and savings.<sup>10</sup>*

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<sup>8</sup> Green (2003) *Rethinking AIDS Prevention*. Praeger.

<sup>9</sup> Kuznets (1974) *Population Capital and Growth*, Norton.

<sup>10</sup> The Growth Commission (2008) *The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development*, World Bank Publication.

# Declaration on Masonic Associations

## Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

THE QUESTION has been raised whether the Church's position on Masonic associations has been altered, especially since no explicit mention is made of them in the new Code of Canon Law, as there was in the old code.

\* \* \*

The Church's negative position on Masonic associations therefore remains unaltered, since their principles have always been regarded as irreconcilable with the Church's doctrine. **Hence joining them remains prohibited by the Church. Catholics enrolled in Masonic associations are involved in serious sin and may not approach Holy Communion.**

\* \* \*

The Supreme Pontiff John Paul II approved this declaration, deliberated at an ordinary meeting of this sacred congregation, and ordered it to become part of public law.

Rome. From the office of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, November 26, 1983.

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
*Prefect*

Jerome Hamer, O.P.  
Archbishop of Loria  
*Secretary*

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