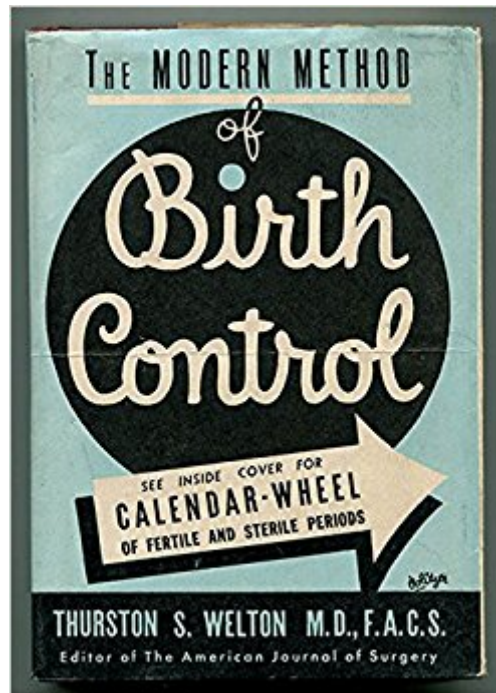




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The Modern Method Of Birth Control



Synopsis

Attractive vintage Manual for using the Catholic Church approved "rhythm method" for birth control. Includes plastic Calendar Wheel and illustrated with color Charts of Regular Cycles.

Book Information

Hardcover: 159 pages

Publisher: Walter J. Black, Inc (1943)

Language: English

ASIN: B0007HWU9K

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

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Very good

While she herself did not evidence an appreciation of the theology or the biology of the body, Professor Leslie Woodcock Tentler's *Catholics and Contraception: An American History* offered fascinating insights into how Catholic moral teaching's connections between the sanctity of human life, marriage/family, and social issues became so blatantly misperceived in the 20th century. While the Church has always understood God's plan for human happiness to absolutely EXCLUDE contraceptive use, many responsible for the care of souls seemed to choose to "forget" this. In 1930's *Casti Connubii*, Pope Pius XI confronted a growing tide of contraceptive acceptance with a prophetic warning: "If any confessor or pastor of souls, which may God forbid, lead the faithful entrusted to him into these errors or should at least confirm them by approval or by guilty silence, let him be mindful of the fact that he must render a strict account to God, the Supreme Judge, for the betrayal of his sacred trust." In 1935, 1938, and 1943, Thurston Scott Welton, MD, FACS - a medical school professor of obstetrics and gynecology - gave no reason for confessors to be silent! In Welton's *The Modern Method of Birth Control*, he taught what was best known about fertility awareness (NOT contraceptive use), to aid married couples to cooperate with God. For SERIOUS reasons, they could utilize fertility awareness and avoid

relations, to postpone pregnancy. This same fertility awareness could also be utilized to help them conceive. While Welton's 1930s/1940s knowledge of fertility could not match the gold standard set by Dr. Thomas Hilgers in 2010's *The NaPro Technology Revolution*, his forthrightness and contributions should not go overlooked. Was he not an unheralded foreshadower of the fertility awareness taught by NaPro Technology? "It is advised that every woman record any and every important and unusual incident or occurrence in her intimate life. Often this proves a valuable record when medical advice is sought" (1943, p. 149). By the late 1950s, despite Casti Connubii's warning, Professor Tentler indicates that there was a thundering silence from many priests AND BISHOPS about the absolute exclusion of contraceptives. The table was being set for the disgraceful and scandalous reaction to Pope Paul VI's 1968 *Humanae Vitae*, which few recognized as a great gift from the Holy Spirit. Tentler describes the aftermath: "A peculiar, implicit gentleman's agreement has developed between clergy and hierarchy in which the hierarchy commits itself not to try to seriously enforce compliance with *Humanae Vitae* so long as the clergy is not too open and public in its opposition to the encyclical," Andrew Greeley asserted in 1972" (p. 263). "The result was a church where sexual ethics were seldom discussed, despite rapid change in the cultural values.... Divorce rates rose, even among regular churchgoers, as did the practice of premarital cohabitation. Birth and marriage rates declined.... Many Catholics... were newly tolerant of abortion" (pp. 276, 277). In the late 1970s / early 1980s, Saint Pope John Paul II gave us his *Theology Of The Body*. Yet, we painfully see a "guilty silence" continue. In naive efforts to make Catholic moral teaching more palatable, we obscure the beauty of its seamless connections between the sanctity of human life, marriage/family, and social issues. And in our efforts to show that modern fertility awareness is a great gift from God, let's not allow pioneers of earlier days like Thurston Scott Welton, MD, FACS to be "thrown under the bus."

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