

Rise in Birth-Curb Services Is Likely to Continue

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

In Spanish Harlem, where Cuban refugees and Latin-American immigrants share crowded tenements with Puerto Ricans, the ban on artificial birth control restated by Pope Paul VI Monday is likely to cause anguish among the devout.

"Quiero la pareja pero deseo esperar," (I want a boy and a girl but I want to wait), is the plea often heard in the busy, drab clinics where hundreds of women come weekly for help in preventing or spacing their pregnancies.

For these women, says Mrs. Lynn Nunez Jacobson, a nurse who has administered such clinics for Metropolitan Hospital, the Pope's decision will mean heartache, a feeling of guilt and more problems.

But she agrees with the widely expressed opinion of medical officials in the city and leaders of planned parenthood groups that the Vatican statement will not reverse the trend that has led an increasing number of Roman Catholics to use contraceptive methods, especially the pill.

The papal announcement continued to stir broad-ranging response in foreign capitals, both in Catholic and in lay circles, some conservative Catholics praising the encyclical as courageous but others openly expressing disappointment and dismay.

There were also forthright objections and even expressions of outrage from groups active in the advocacy of birth control and family planning.

The International Planned

Parenthood Federation, which has branches in 54 countries and headquarters in London, protested that the Pope's pronouncement was reactionary and would be regretted by responsible people the world over. The federation said it would give encouragement to groups, particularly in Western countries, that have a vested interest in unskilled and illegal abortions.

City officials, while reluctant to comment directly on the encyclical, stressed that the city would continue to provide family-planning services to those who sought them.

No record is maintained of a patient's religious affiliation, an official said, but he added: "Of course we know there are Catholics coming for assistance. The number who ask for assistance in the rhythm method—the only church-approved method—is negligible and most practice birth control by taking the pill or using intrauterine devices."

Expansion Planned

Mitchell L. Ginsberg, Human Resources Administrator, was unwilling to discuss the encyclical, but upheld the importance and value of the family-planning services now being given. He said the intention was to expand the aid now given with federal help to 11 centers in poorer neighborhoods.

In mid-June, a new program for cost-free services was initiated in 14 municipal hospitals, eliminating an \$11 charge.

Dr. James G. Haughton, a deputy administrator of health services for the city, was one of many officials who foresaw

no decline in the use of family-planning facilities as a result of the papal encyclical.

"Those who come to see us are acting in keeping with their own conscience as parents," he said. "The city provides a service we regard as a health service and no pressure in exercised to use artificial birth-control methods. We do not expect the number to drop off."

As expected the most outspoken opposition to the Pope's view came from groups active in advocating birth control. Not for the first time, supporters of Parents Aid Society appeared with placards outside St. Patrick's Cathedral and William R. Baird, director, assailed the encyclical as a "cruel and immoral pronouncement in its support of bringing more babies into the world when there is not enough food for those here."

Winfield Best, a vice president of Planned Parenthood-World Population, a national organization with 400 centers across the country, says no decline is expected in the number of Catholics using the group's facilities.

"We teach the rhythm method if they seek this instruction, but the great majority do not," the official said. "The number of Catholics using contraceptives probably has doubled in the last decade and it is most unlikely the trend will not continue."

"It is tragic that the Catholic Church, which traditionally does so much to educate for marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood, now should take such a position," the vice president said.

Dr. Martin L. Stone, professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Medical College and director of three family-planning clinics for Metropolitan Hospital, said he could not recall the last request from a patient for instruction in the rhythm method. "American Catholics have accepted birth-control methods and nothing will turn back this fact," he said.

Along with some other medical authorities, however he saw a possibility that the encyclical would encourage some administrators in hospitals or in city departments to resist programs in birth-control practices.

At least one spokesman for a Catholic welfare agency also said that the Papal encyclical had been a disappointment for families that had had great hopes for a more liberalized policy. When asked about birth control, a nun replied that Catholics obviously were using the pill. "We don't tell them not to do it and I'm sure some clergymen do not tell them not to," she said.

Abroad, the Pope's encyclical was expected to have prompt repercussions in Belgium, where it could block pending legislation in Parliament lifting the ban on all propaganda for contraceptives.

The author of the bill said Catholics would be reluctant to support the measure. In France, 15 Catholic physicians jointly challenged the Pope's ruling, saying they were "stupefied" by the position taken. Some served on a papal committee that had studied the issue.