

VATICAN - CATHOLICS MUST OBEY

VATICAN CITY, SEPT. 2, REUTER--ROMAN CATHOLICS ARE BOUND TO OBEY POPE PAULS BAN ON ARTIFICIAL BIRTH CONTROL EVEN IF THEY CANNOT AGREE WITH IT SCIENTIFICALLY, THE VATICAN NEWSPAPER SAID TODAY.

"A PATIENT WHO DOES NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MEDICINE FOLLOWS THE PRESCRIPTION OF HIS DOCTORS..... SOLDIERS IN THE PAST WAR OBEYED THE ORDERS OF THEIR OFFICERS WITHOUT KNOWING THE STRATEGY OF THE GREAT CHIEFS AND THE TACTICS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE SUPERIORS," THE OSSERVATORE ROMANO SAID.

"WHY, THEREFORE, SHOULD THE DIVINE AUTHORITY OF THE PASTORS OF THE CHURCH NOT DEMAND A SIMILAR SUBMISSION IN THE SPHERE OF FAITH AND MORALS?"

THE NEWSPAPER WAS STEPPING UP ITS CAMPAIGN FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE POPES RULING WITH THE FIRST OF THREE ARTICLES ON PAPAL AUTHORITY.

BIRTH CONTROL IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC QUESTION BUT A MORAL PROBLEM, IT SAID.

"EVEN IF A CATHOLIC FINDS DIFFICULTY IN GRASPING THE BINDING NATURE OF HIS (THE POPE'S) REASONING AS A RESULT OF HIS SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON, HE NONETHELESS HAS THE DUTY TO OBEY....." THE NEWSPAPER MAINTAINED.

IT ADDED THAT TO OPPOSE THE POPES DECISION WITH ARGUMENTS HE REJECTS "WOULD BE TO PUT THE FALLIBLE LIGHT OF HUMAN SCIENCE AND THE DIVINE LIGHT OF THE PASTORS ASSISTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE SAME LEVEL."

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