

even adolescents, therefore, began to see sex outside marriage as an entitlement.

The consequences of the contraceptive mentality – multiple sexual partners instead of one lifetime partner, an epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases, the increased health risks (including breast cancer, blood clots and strokes) associated with hormonal contraceptives – are now well documented. But the media rarely reports on these lest they be seen as lending support to religious “fanatics” who espouse abstinence until marriage.

Today a kind of fatalism expects kids to become sexually active the moment they reach puberty. Adolescents are assumed to have no control over the sex drive, so teaching them self-mastery is thought to be impractical, if not impossible. The solution, they propose, is to help them avoid one consequence of their behavior -- pregnancy -- through easy access to contraceptives.

The passage of city ordinances in Olongapo, Quezon City and Davao City on “Reproductive Health” is in fact one way of saying that teens should be taught contraceptives in the classroom and contraceptives provided for in the health centers – otherwise, non-implementation of entails penalty on the teachers, school administrations, and health personnel.

There are many reasons why such directives are wrong: teenage girls who begin using contraceptives will be at greater risk for developing cancer as adults. This because the combined estrogen-progestin contraceptives are among known carcinogens published on the lists of World Health Organization and the U.S. Center for Disease Control.

Teenage girls are not physically developed enough to have intercourse without adversely affecting their health. Because their cervixes are immature, they are more susceptible than adult women to contracting sexually-transmitted infections.

Teenage girls lack the emotional maturity to engage in intercourse. Teen sexual activity is shown to be associated with high rates of clinical depression and attempted suicide.

Kids should not be having sex. It is the job of parents to teach their children about human sexuality in the context of living a responsible moral life. This includes the gift of chastity,

respect for oneself and others, the meaning of sex within marriage.

Parents have every right to demand that teachers, politicians, journalists, and celebrities do not undermine their efforts to raise healthy and responsible adults.

Source: Susan Wills, Director of Education, and Theresa Notare, Asst. Director for Natural Family Planning, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC