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# Fight for Life and the Family in the Philippines

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## DO YOU BETRAY GOD WITH A KISS?

### *A Report from the Frontline*

In the Philippines, the “reproductive health” debate has intensified. Advocates pushing for what they call the women’s basic “human rights” to free access to contraception and mandatory “sexual health” education have aggressively pre-empted a Congressional approval of the Reproductive Health Bill. It is an understatement to say that reproductive health advocates and policymakers have been pushing, ushering, and coaxing the Reproductive Health Bill through Congress. On Monday 7th March, Congressman Garin unconstitutionally delivered the introductory speech for the bill though it was not in the agenda. Her speech was ruled “out of order” and excluded from the proceedings. On International Women’s Day, 8th March 2011, 1,500 supporters of the bill took to the streets across the country to rally for the passage of the Reproductive Health Bill. Then with a blatant show of confidence, UN TV falsely aired the news that the Reproductive Health Bill has passed its second reading in Congress, meaning that it will proceed to a vote, which they are confident to pass.

As conscientious Catholics continued to fight against the bill, advocates of the sexual rights and health agenda intensified their attack against the Catholic Church. As the Catholic resistance called for a Rosary Crusade against the bill, the sexual rights campaign resisted with their slogan “Keep your Rosaries off my ovaries”. As Bishops exhorted their flocks to resist the bill, women’s rights advocates publicly praised Catholic personalities that sup-

ported their agenda. Congressman Edcel Lagman proudly declared that Catholic professors from Ateneo University assert that Catholic women and couples can remain good Catholics even if they use contraceptives. Gender Across Borders



praised the feminist activist nun Sister Mary John Mananzan for her independent and rights-based spirit in espousing feminist activism into the country’s Catholic faith<sup>1</sup>, for which efforts she was specially feted by Women Deliver – a women’s rights organization.

Employing a number of argumental fallacies, Congressman Lagman maintained that the campaign of the Catholic hierarchy against the bill “is characterized by inordinate misinformation and patent lies as well as pathetic threats of excommunication for legislators supporting the bill.” He insisted that the arguments of the members of the Catholic hierarchy and their allies in Congress are “flawed”, the “logic defective”, and the “data faulty”. He proudly claimed that proponents of the bill have the “superiority of numbers” and the “superiority of arguments”.<sup>2</sup>

Yet, for God’s people there should be

no argument superior to the love of God. “If you love Me, keep My commandments”. “If anyone desires to follow Me, let him carry his cross and come, follow Me”. The Catholic resistance will be successful as long as the call to virtue through the renunciation of self-will and the mortification of the senses is clearly heard. All the Catholic laity must be convinced that chastity and purity is holiness, and that the gratification of lust is sin. Loyalty and obedience to the will of God is not a violation of women’s constitutional and human rights. “Catholics” who fight for their “sexual liberation and sexual rights” and insist that they can remain good Catholics despite their use and promotion of contraceptives to avoid “unintended and mistimed pregnancies” need to be asked only one question: “Do you betray God with a kiss ...and a contraceptive?”

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1. RH Bill Saga Drags on in Philippines; Noses to the Grindstone”. <http://www.genderacrossborders.com/2011/03/09/rh-bill-saga-drags-...>

2. Edcel C. Lagman: “Goals and Challenges in Legislating an RH Law”. Speech delivered at ICPD 15 National Conference Workshop at the Summit Hall, PICC, Pasay City, August 26, 2009.

