

## Oral Contraception & Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Catholic Medical Association supports your right to know. The birth control pill has been available for over 50 years. When it was released to market in 1960, it was thought to be miracle drug that would free women's lives and improve family life. Prior to the "pill" there were 5 sexually transmitted diseases; today there are more than 50. Nearly 20 million new cases of STD's are reported in the U.S. every year, of which half infect 15 – 24 yr olds.<sup>1</sup> To find out more, visit CathMed.org.

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<sup>1</sup> Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance 2010. National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention; Division of STD Prevention U.S. CDC, 2010 (<http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats10/surv2010.pdf>).