



## Christian Voices for Life

### Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

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## This week's Topic: "Emergency" Contraception: The "Morning After" Pill

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**Education:** "Emergency" contraception refers to methods (pill or insertion of an IUD) after intercourse has taken place. Depending on the method, it may be used up to 3 to 5 days after intercourse. If ovulation has not yet occurred, it may be prevented. But if ovulation has already occurred shortly before or after intercourse, conception may have also already occurred. In that case, the method is acting to prevent implantation of the newly conceived child.

Proponents of the pill say that it has "no effect on pregnancy" and will prevent abortions by preventing unwanted pregnancies. Keep in mind, however, that these people are defining pregnancy as beginning at implantation rather than conception. Doctors are encouraged to prescribe the pills for sexually active women to keep on hand, and women over 18 can now buy the pills (such as "Plan B") over the counter. It is probable that a significant percentage of the decline in abortions since 1994 is due to the use of emergency contraception – but children's lives are still being lost in these cases.



**Prayer:** Please pray for women who are tempted to use emergency contraception, that they will understand what that action may do to a child already conceived, and trust in God to be in control of their lives and to be with them through whatever difficulties they may face.

Please, Lord, have mercy on women who have engaged in intercourse without being open to the gift of life. Help them to better understand your beautiful plan for sexuality and consider the practice of chastity. For women who have been victimized by rape, please comfort them with your grace and help them to put their trust in You. Help all women who feel burdened by an unwanted pregnancy to look to You for support and strength, and find concrete help from Christians who are living your love for them.



**Action:** Ask your pharmacist if he sells emergency contraceptives. Does he understand that the drug can often cause the death of a human child already conceived? Has he considered refusing to sell these products on the basis of conscientious objection? While the law may protect the patient's right to have access to the drug, the pharmacist also has a right not to participate in providing a medication he finds morally objectionable. Many women taking the pill may not be aware of its effect on children already conceived, and may reconsider taking it if a pharmacist were to refuse to sell it and explain his position.