*The following press release provides general information about the USCCB’s national campaign to raise awareness of Natural Family Planning methods. Feel free to use this text in its entirety or include it in a news release of your own.*

DATE: [insert date here]

**NFP Awareness Week Begins July 20th, 2014**

WASHINGTON, DC – “Natural Family Planning: It’s Worth It. Join the Revolution!” is the theme of this year’s Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God’s design for married love and the gift of life and to raise awareness of Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods. “NFP,” as the U.S. bishops have written, is supportive of Catholic beliefs about married love because it “respects the God-given power to love a new human life into being” (see, U.S. Bishops, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*). The slogan for this year’s NFP Awareness Week was inspired by Pope Francis’ words of encouragement to Christians called to married life: “I ask you… to be revolutionaries…to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility, that believes you are incapable of true love. I have confidence in you and I pray for you. Have the courage ‘to swim against the tide’. And also have the courage to be happy.” <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco_20130728_gmg-rio-volontari.html>

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (July 20th –26th, 2014) highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

Resources (e.g., the 2014 NFP Week poster, web banners, prayers, homily notes, bulletin inserts, etc.) and ideas for celebrating and promoting NFP Awareness Week in your area can be found on the USCCB’s NFP Program website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/awareness-week/index.cfm>. For more information, contact nfp@usccb.org.