

***DIOCESAN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING MINISTRY
NATIONAL PROFILE***

2005 REPORT

**DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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OVERVIEW

On January 31, 2006, 205 dioceses were invited to participate in the annual *NFP Program National Profile* survey of diocesan natural family programs. This was the second year that participants could complete the *Profile* online. The cumulative data base will assist the DDP/NFP office to more effectively analyze NFP program trends throughout the United States. Eighty-two or 40% of the dioceses submitted data. As in previous years, the following data “snapshot” indicates that certain aspects of NFP programs remain relatively unchanged but with slight improvement in some key areas.

- Most dioceses (90%) include NFP in their programs of marriage preparation. However, the majority of newly married couples failed to take full advantage of natural family planning in their conjugal life. This assumption is based on the comparison between the total number of marriages in the Church (212,456¹) and the total number of individuals (17,257²) reported in the survey that enrolled in a full course of instruction in NFP. Obviously, more must be done to inspire couples to fully understand and embrace the Church’s teaching on human sexuality within marriage.
- Several dioceses and an increasing number of individual priests require engaged couples to take a full NFP course of instruction before marriage. Some dioceses are strongly considering requiring an introduction to a full NFP course of instruction as part of marriage preparation. There is diversity of opinion from diocese to diocese on the merits of requiring a full course of NFP instruction for engaged couples.
- When viewed nationally, diocesan NFP programs vary from comprehensive to nonexistent. Some dioceses have very strong educational programs that integrate NFP into all educational efforts on human sexuality, marriage, and family life. Through hard work and dedication, many dioceses have made tremendous strides in improving the quality of their NFP programs in order to meet the *Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry*. But viewed nationally, as one diocese improves its NFP program, another may experience a reduction in program size due to teacher loss, budget cuts, and/or diocesan restructuring.

¹(2006), *The Official Catholic Directory*.

²See, 2005 *Profile*, Q.22.

- Diocesan funding of NFP programs vary greatly from diocese to diocese. A total of fifty-seven percent of all NFP diocesan programs operate on less than \$10,000 per year. Only eighteen percent of dioceses spend \$30,000 to more than \$70,000 for their NFP programs. In most dioceses, NFP programs share funding, materials, and staff support of an umbrella department, e.g., Marriage and Family Life Office.
- NFP efforts go largely unnoticed. Only sixty-four percent of diocesan NFP programs submit an annual report on their activities. Typically, NFP funding is so meager that it is not identified as a specific line item in diocesan budgets.
- Volunteers are the unsung heroes of diocesan NFP programs. A large number of diocesan programs (46%) depend largely on volunteers to sustain their programs. Many dioceses (41%) offer modest stipends to cover the personal costs of volunteers; e.g., transportation, NFP materials, baby sitting, meals, etc.
- There has been a slight improvement in the amount of scheduled time dedicated to NFP in marriage preparation programs. The time given to NFP is short; e.g., in seventy-four percent of Pre-Cana programs it is less than one hour. The majority of diocesan marriage preparation programs provide at least rudimentary NFP information with special attention directed toward couples preparing for marriage; e.g., booklets, fact sheets, witness couple talks, and NFP courses of instruction. Through NFP introductory sessions more than 96,887 individuals received basic information on NFP in 2005.

Finally, the fundamental pastoral question that must be faced when analyzing diocesan NFP programs is: *Can couples who wish to be faithful to Church teaching on responsible parenthood readily get the NFP support they need?* The answer to this question will determine how best to plan and support local diocesan NFP ministry.

I PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1) The (arch) diocesan NFP Program is: (*check one*)

- 67% Part of the office of Marriage and Family Life
 - 0% A service of one of our Catholic hospital(s)
 - 02% Part of Catholic Charities
 - 05% Its own department
 - 26% Other
- N=81*

2) Who is responsible for coordinating NFP Ministry? (*e.g., Family Life Director, NFP Coordinator, Respect Life Director, etc.*)

- 49% Diocesan NFP Coordinator
 - 32% Family Life Director
 - 03% Respect Life Director
 - 16% No person designated
- N=80*

How long have you been the NFP coordinator?

The person responsible for coordinating NFP ministry has held the position for an average of 7 years. The range is from less than 1 year to over 17 years. The majority have held their position for 5 years or less.

N=33

3) For this position, NFP work is: (*check one*)

- 48% One part of full-time responsibilities
 - 07% Full-time, paid
 - 0% Full-time, volunteer
 - 32% Part-time, paid
 - 13% Part-time, volunteer
- N=82*

4) Is the NFP coordinator trained in NFP methodology? (*Check one*)

- 81% Yes
 - 19% No
- N=82*

- 5) If the answer to question (4) is “Yes,” for which of the following roles was the NFP coordinator trained? (*Check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

36 Teacher 53 User 44 Promoter

- 6) If you answered question (5), please indicate which school(s) of NFP trained the coordinator? (*Check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

23 Billings Ovulation Method Association (BOMA)
22 Couple to Couple League (CCL)
13 Creighton Model FertilityCare™ Center
11 Northwest Family Services
05 Family of the Americas Foundation
19 Smaller teaching programs or diocesan/regional programs

- 7) How many NFP teachers are part of the (arch) diocesan program? (*Count teaching couples as two*)

Total: 1,108

N=62

- 8) Which statement best describes the NFP program policy regarding remuneration of its teachers? (*Check one*)

41% Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We give them a stipend to cover expenses.
46% Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We do not give them a stipend.
08% We pay our NFP instructors (*part and/or full time*).
05% Salaries/stipends for instructors are provided by other sources (*e.g., Catholic Hospital, Knights of Columbus, etc.*).

N=78

- 9) Which organization trains the (arch) diocesan teachers? (*Check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

63 Billings Ovulation Method Association (BOMA)
40 Couple to Couple League (CCL)
09 Creighton Model Fertility Care™ Center
28 Diocesan Teacher Training program
10 Family of the Americas Foundation
27 Northwest Family Services

10) Does the (arch) diocese have an NFP Advisory Committee?
 38% Yes 62% No N=79

11) Do you prepare an annual diocesan report on NFP ministry?
 37% Yes 63% No N=82

II PROGRAM BUDGET

12) What was the total operating budget for NFP ministry last year? (*Estimate should include salaries, stipends, postage, materials, etc.*)

4%	\$0	
20%	\$1-999	
23%	\$1,000 - 4,999	
11%	\$5 - 9,999	
24%	\$10 - 29,999	
15%	\$30 - 49,999	
03%	\$50>	N=74

13) Of the total operating budget for NFP ministry, how much was directly funded by the diocese last year?

08%	\$0	
18%	\$1-999	
29%	\$1,000 - 4,999	
09%	\$5 - 9,999	
23%	\$10 - 29,999	
09%	\$30 - 49,999	
04%	\$50>	N=77

14) How much additional money was generated by all NFP activities? (e.g., introductory sessions, class fees, seminars, materials, etc.).

26%	0	
25%	1-999	
30%	1,000-4,999	
03%	5,000-9,999	
16%	10,000>	N=76

15) Is there a separate fee for an introductory session? (*Check one*)
 24% Yes 76% No N=79

Comment: The average fee for an introductory session is less than \$30.00. The amount charged varies from a low of \$5.00 to a high of \$40.00 depending on materials and length of the introductory session(s). Most dioceses charge between \$11 & \$20.

N=23

16) Do you charge a fee for a full course in NFP? (*Check one*)

94% Yes 6% No

N=78

17) If the answer to question (16) is “Yes”, how is a separate fee determined for a full course in NFP? (*Check one*)

29% (Arch) diocese NFP staff determine fees
40% Individual NFP provider determines fees
19% Combination of (arch) diocesan staff and individual NFP provider determine fees
12% Other

N=77

18) How much is charged to clients/couples for a full course in NFP? (*If amounts vary, give average*)

0% \$0
01% \$1-25
13% \$26-45
22% \$46-65
42% \$66-85
06% \$86-99
16% \$100>

N=69

Comment: Most courses cost over \$50.00 to cover the cost of materials. The charge varied from \$25 to over \$100+, depending on materials, length of course, and the number of follow-up services required.

19) Is a separate fee charged for follow-up? (*Check one*)

19% Yes 81% No

N=77

Comment: The average charged for a follow-up is \$25.00. The amount varied from \$1 to \$65.00

III PROGRAM SERVICE

- 20) Which NFP method(s) is currently taught in the (arch) diocesan program? (*Check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

57 Cervical Mucus Method
71 Sympto-Thermal Method

- 21) How many individuals (couples count as two) in the (arch) diocese received an introductory/promotional talk on NFP during the last twelve months?

More than 96,887 individuals received some information/instruction on NFP.

N=68

- 22) How many individuals (couples count as two) in the (arch) diocese attended NFP class/instruction during the last twelve months?

More than 17,257 individuals attended a class/instruction on NFP. *N=66*

- 23) Does the (arch) diocese have guidelines for marriage preparation?

95% Yes 05% No *N=78*

- 24) If the answer to question (23) was “Yes” is NFP included in the guidelines for marriage preparation?

90% Yes 10% No *N=77*

- 25) On average how much time is allowed for NFP education in marriage preparation programs? (*Give your best estimate*)

15% 0 minutes - 15 minutes
25% 16 minutes - 30 minutes
15% 31 minutes - 45 minutes
19% 46 minutes - 1 hour
26% 1 hour - 2 hours+ *N=80*

- 26) Does the (arch) diocese require an introductory session to NFP for the engaged? (*Check one*)

34% Yes 66% No *N=80*

27) If the answer to question (26) is “Yes”, how much time is allotted to the required NFP introductory session?

09% 30 minutes

21% 45 minutes

55% 1 hour - 2 hours

15% Other: “one day NFP seminar,” etc.

N=33

28) If the answer to question (26) is “Yes”, what is the content of the required NFP introductory session? (*Check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

25 The appropriate Church teachings

21 Reproductive anatomy & physiology

24 Basic NFP science (e.g., *all the signs of fertility discussed*)

20 Basic NFP methodology (e.g., an overview of all the specific NFP systems offered in your diocese)

29 Benefits of NFP

08 Contraindications of various contraceptives

23 NFP witness talk

29) Does the (arch) diocese require an NFP *course* for engaged couples? (*Check one*)

04% Yes 96% No

N=69

30) Is the (arch) diocese moving toward mandating a full course of NFP instruction for engaged couples? (*Check one*)

25% Yes 75% No

N=62

**Gratitude is extended to the following dioceses
for participating in the 2005 *Profile* survey**

Allentown, Amarillo, Arlington, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Bridgeport, Brooklyn, Brownsville, Camden, Charleston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Corpus Christi, Crookston, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, Erie, Evansville, Fargo, Galveston-Houston, Great Falls-Billings, Green Bay, Harrisburg, Hartford, Houma-Thibodaux, Jefferson City, Joliet, Juneau, Kalamazoo, Knoxville, La Crosse, Lansing, Laredo, Las Cruces, Lincoln, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Marquette, Memphis, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Ulm, Newark, Norwich, Ogdensburg, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Palm Beach, Paterson, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Peoria, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Providence, Rapid City, Richmond, Rochester, Rockford, Rockville Centre, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, Scranton, Springfield in Illinois, St. Augustine, St. Cloud, St. Louis, St. Paul-Minneapolis, Superior, Tulsa, Washington, DC, Wichita, Winona, Worcester, Yakima, Youngstown.

Program Resources

The following documents are useful in strengthening diocesan NFP programs.

Diocesan Plan for Natural Family Planning Program Development. Washington, D.C.: Diocesan Development Program for NFP, 1981. (Available from the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities; Orders: 1-866-582-0943.)

Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Office of Publishing and Promotion Services, 2000. (Available from USCCB Publishing: 1-800-235-8722; #5-357.)

USCCB NFP web resources: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/index.shtml>

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