

## On the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski

This past July 25<sup>th</sup> marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Paul VI's controversial and still little heeded encyclical, *Humanae vitae* (*On the Regulation of Birth*). Many both within and without the Church – heady from the many changes initiated by the Second Vatican Council – fully expected that the Church would change her clear and constant teachings on human sexuality and procreation. Proponents of change then argued that the development of the contraceptive pill made such change in teaching not only possible but imperative. However, Pope Paul VI (advised closely by the then Cardinal Wojtyla) realized that while much in the Church was rightly changeable (for example, liturgical rites and languages had changed often in the Church's two thousand year history) no one – even the Pope – could change the received teachings of the Church in matters of faith and morals.

In *Humanae vitae*, giving an ecclesiastical example of a profile in courage, Paul VI reaffirmed the immorality of recourse to artificial means of birth regulation. While Pope Paul VI and the Catholic Church practically stood alone in reaffirmation that the procreative and unitive ends of the conjugal act could not morally be arbitrarily separated, it is important to remember that up until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century this was also the constant teaching of all other Christian ecclesial bodies – Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant.

Of course, the Church is not against sexual pleasure as some of her opponents allege; but, more importantly, we are for the happiness of the human person. The fostering of that happiness requires understanding the gift of our sexuality as God has intended it. Sex, in God's plan, is more than just a "recreational activity". As Catholic feminist and philosopher, Janet Smith says: "...sex is for babies and bonding. If people are not ready for babies and bonding, they ought not to be engaging in acts of sexual intercourse." And what are nuptials but the public expression of a couple's readiness to do just that?

A careful rereading of *Humanae vitae* – especially in the light of the "sexual revolution" unleashed in society over the past 40 years – can help us appreciate how prescient the Pope was in his warnings of the dire consequences that a "contraceptive mentality" would have on society. The numbers of unwanted pregnancies and abortions did not decrease with the widespread acceptance of contraception – they increased. And the "pill" far from freeing women from male domination made them more likely to be victims of sexual exploitation by men. The break up of families and the epidemic of divorce in our culture, the increasingly high incidence of women bearing children out of wedlock, the flight from adult responsibility and the extended "adolescence" of men, all point to – in hindsight – the rightness of Paul VI's and the Church's teaching on human sexuality.

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The Church condemns artificial contraception not just because of its bad consequences. She condemns artificial contraception because it is intrinsically evil (and because it is evil it has bad consequences). Contraception is evil because it violates the very purpose and nature of the sexual act – and in doing so violates the dignity of the human person.

Pope John Paul II reaffirmed *Humane vitae* throughout his pontificate. His “*Theology of the Body*” has sought to represent the perennial teachings of Church on human sexuality in an idiom more accessible to our contemporaries. The sexual act, he teaches, implies self-giving, a self giving denied in the very act of contraception. One’s “body language” should mean as much as one’s words do. Happiness and human flourishing cannot be built on insincere language or lies. Contraception – like pre-marital or extra-marital sex - is a lie because it denies the unconditional “yes” of one to another implied in the very act of love making.

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*Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando, is Chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace. Reprinted with permission from The Florida Catholic.*

## **Bishops Intensify Work to Defend Marriage**

Sr. Mary Ann Walsh

Recognizing the societal implications of legislative and judicial efforts to redefine marriage, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has joined efforts with the Knights of Columbus to develop a national plan of action in defense of marriage.

The effort, which will highlight the bishops' promotion and protection of marriage, will be led by an ad hoc committee appointed by Cardinal Francis George, president of the USCCB. The committee chair is Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, who also serves as chair of the USCCB sub-committee on Marriage and Family Life. Other members are Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, and chair of the bishops' Committee on Doctrine; and Bishop Gabino Zavala, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and chair of the USCCB task force on strengthening marriage. Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, serves as a consultant on the committee.

“We must increase our efforts to make known the unique beauty of the vocation to marriage,” explained Archbishop Kurtz when the ad hoc committee was announced. “At the same time, we must address inadequacies in the ongoing public debate on the nature of marriage through education and public policy advocacy.”

The Knights have agreed to fund the bishops' efforts. First initiatives will include the development of a brief video that will be available on the Internet, marketing through social networking Web sites and redistribution of the bishops' statement on marriage, *Between Man and Woman*. The statement, which affirms that marriage is a unique relationship between a man and a woman and, as such, is an essential core element of healthy

societies, was released in 2003 by the U.S. bishops. (*It is available at <http://www.usccb.org/bishops/manandwoman.shtml>.)*

This new plan to defend marriage continues broader efforts undertaken by the bishops aimed at promoting and protect-ing marriage. In addition to their 2003 statement on same-sex unions, the bishops in 2004 began a National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage (see <http://www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/npim.shtml>) whose main purpose is to strengthen marriages. A major outreach of the Initiative has been a “For Your Marriage” campaign. This campaign includes public service messages and a Web site ([www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)) offering information and help to engaged and married couples.

# Real Heroes - The NFP Hall of Fame

Theresa Notare

In this fortieth anniversary year of *Humanae vitae* it is important to take a moment and acknowledge the courageous group of clergy, religious and laity who have labored long and hard to help Catholics understand and live our beliefs on married love and the gift of life. This group of faithful Catholics must be entered into an “NFP Hall of Fame.”

First, let us acknowledge all of you who currently offer NFP classes, direct diocesan NFP programs, teach chastity education to teens, or witness to the benefits of living God's design for married love in parish programs, university classes, or diocesan marriage preparation programs. The bishops know how difficult your work can be, but are also aware of your understanding that NFP work is a call from God. The bishops are grateful for your gifts and generosity!

Special mention must be given to the early NFP pioneers the clergy, religious and lay leaders who labored from the 1960s, some even earlier, to our day. This hearty group of early NFP pioneers has done an amazing amount of work. Among their activities, they have: published scholarly and popular articles and books; provided talks and educational programs throughout the United States and the world; researched and developed scientific methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP); built NFP programs and organizations; championed breastfeeding as a form of NFP as well as strengthening the mother/child bond; testified before Congress to win federal funding for NFP programs; provided funding to further NFP programming; worked with public health organizations to study the effectiveness of NFP methods; and developed ethical ways of caring for women's reproductive health.

The early NFP pioneers paid a dear price for their efforts over the years. Some of the clergy were attacked or ridiculed even by their brother priests. Some of the laity who labored in academia and medicine were ostracized by their peers. Many of the lay leaders suffered financially as they worked for little pay and poor benefits. In the early years, all were viewed with suspicion in the Church. This suspicion came from those who dissented from Church teachings and also faithful Catholics who were uncomfortable with the issue. Regardless of the obstacles, all of these brave souls have been able to persevere in sacrificial love throughout the years. Many of them continue to labor in this ministry. Some are supposed to be retired but continue to help in any way. Others have passed on to their home in Heaven. In this fortieth anniversary year of *Humanae vitae*, it's high time to salute these pioneers and all of you who promote the Church's teachings on human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. May the Lord God bless you and your families!

## The NFP Hall of Fame

*The following list provides the names of some of our NFP pioneers—both nationally and internationally. These names have been submitted by NFP pioneers who we had contacted. Please excuse any inconsistencies. This is very much a “first” list. In subsequent issues of this newsletter, an attempt will be made to identify more NFP pioneers as well as to provide brief biographical information per each name.*

*If you know the names of NFP pioneers who should be included in the NFP Hall of Fame, please send us their information, name, title (if applicable), and a brief description of their NFP contributions. For now, let us thank God for the following and all NFP Pioneers!*

## National and International NFP Pioneers

### *Clergy and Religious*

Rev. Randall Blackall  
Sr. Louis Marie Bryan  
Rev. Marc Caligari, S.J.  
Cardinal Terrance Cooke  
Msgr. Deegan  
Sr. Ursula Fagan, MMS  
Sr. Dr. Catherine Bernard Haliburn,  
CSC  
Most Rev. Charles H. Helmsing  
Rev. Richard Hunegar  
Sr. Francesca Kearns, CCVI  
Rev. Msgr. John C. Knott  
Rev. Ronald Lawler, OFM.Cap  
Rev. Daniel McCaffrey, (Military)  
Most Rev. James T. McHugh  
Rev. Jan Mcharski (wrote about NFP  
under name, Paul Thyma)  
Rev. Paul Marx, O.S.B.  
Cardinal O'Boyle  
Rev. Dennis St. Marie  
Msgr. John Seli  
Sr. Ella Stewart, MMS, RN  
Rev. Anthony Zimmerman, S.V.D.

### *Physicians and Scientists*

Frank J. Aydt, Jr. MD  
Gabriel Bialy  
John Billings, MD  
Evelyn Billings, DCH  
Dr. John Brennan, MD  
Paul Busam, MD  
Prof. James E. Brown  
Prof. Henry Burger  
Clement P. Cunningham, MD  
Gerhard K. Döring, MD  
Kathleen Dorairaj, MBBS  
H. P. Dunn, MD  
John France, PhD  
Anthony M. Gawienowski, PhD  
Rev. Bill Gibbons, MD  
François Guy, MD  
Michèle Guy, MD  
Thomas Hilgers, MD

Kevin Hume , MD  
Dr. Robert Jackson  
Dr. John Kavanaugh, MD  
Dr. Edward Keefe  
Sr. Hanna Klaus, MD, MMS  
Claude Lanctôt, MD, MPH  
John McCarthy, Jr., MD  
Dr. George Maloof  
Dr. Marie Mascarenhas, MBBS  
Gover C. T. Nabors, MD  
Eric Odeblad MD, PhD  
Suzanne Parenteau-Carreau,  
MD  
Konald A. Prem, MD  
Herbert Ratner, MD  
Frank P. Rice, PhD  
Joseph Rötzer, MD  
Jeff Spieler, MPH  
C. James Statt, MD  
Ruth Taylor, MD  
William A. Uricchio, PhD  
Rudolph F. Vollman, MD

*Lay ecclesial ministers,  
theologians, professors,  
teachers, nurses, social  
workers, business professionals*

John and Nancy Ball  
Gilles and Rita Breault  
Mary Lou Bryant  
Merrilyn Currie  
Diane Daly, RN  
Kay and Dave Ek  
Carman and Jean Fallace  
Richard Fehring, PhD, RN  
Rose Fuller, MA  
Isabelle Graham  
Sue Hilgers  
Robert and Mary Kambic  
Larry and Isabelle Kane  
John and Sheila Kippley  
The Knights of Columbus  
Ann Lanctot, RN  
Rita Marker  
Mary C. Martin, PhD, RN  
William May, PhD  
Ann Prebil

Mary Shivanandan, STD  
Mary Kay Williams  
Mercedes Wilson

### **1960s-1980s Diocesan NFP Leaders (directors, coordinators, teachers)**

#### *Archdioceses*

Baltimore, Rita Ayd, Lynn  
Carol Fisher, Mary Kambic,  
Sally Schwerdt and Randy  
Shamer  
Boston, Elli Tabebeck, RN  
Chicago, Sharon Dausman  
New York, Sheila Potter  
St. Louis, Mary Gayle Doyle  
and Anne O'Donnell  
San Antonio, Henrietta  
O'Connor  
Washington, Wilma Stevenson

#### *Dioceses*

Allentown, Suzie Lee  
Altoona-Johnston, Rosemary  
Kieswetter  
Buffalo, Beverly Malona, RN  
Cleveland, Mary Ann Stanton  
Corpus Christi, Marge Harrigan  
Erie, Barbara and Ed Burkette  
Joliet, Mary Therese Egizio, RN  
Kalamazoo, Mary Culp  
Kansas City-St. Joseph, Richard  
and Beattie Muraski, later,  
Phyllis White  
LaCrosse, +Barbara Johnson,  
later, Jeff and Alice Heinzen  
Memphis, Mary Pat Van Epps  
Oakland, Maureen Scallioti,  
RN  
Peoria, Mary Ann Heinz  
Phoenix, Janet Kistler  
Providence, Steve and Sheila  
Burke  
San Jose, Terry Maes  
San Diego, Carmela Cavero,  
MS, CN

Sioux Falls, Jay and Maryann Paulukonis  
Springfield, IL, Donna Dausman  
St. Cloud, Kay Ek  
St. Petersburg, Sharon Iler

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*Theresa Notare, PhD, is the Assistant Director of the USCCBs NFP Program, Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. She has been serving this ministry for over twenty years.*

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## *Humanae vitae* in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Andrew Alderson

Is *Humanae vitae* still relevant to young Catholics today, 40 years after it was written? What is the best way to communicate the message contained within it? The answer to the first question is a resounding “Yes,” and some of the proof of its relevance can be found in the encyclical itself.

Pope Paul VI wrote *Humanae vitae* in 1968 explaining that contraception is a serious sin against life and marriage. *Humanae vitae* was also a very prophetic encyclical. In Article 17, Pope Paul gives a stark prediction of what would happen to society if it embraced contraception. He warned that contraception would “widen the way for marital infidelity . . . that moral standards would lower . . . that men would reduce women to mere instruments for the satisfaction of their desires . . . and that governments would impose contraception and intervene in the most personal and intimate responsibility of husband and wife.” Now fast-forward to 2008. Divorce and adultery are commonplace. Our culture’s moral compass has been reduced to whatever “feels good at the time.” Pornography is among the highest of addictive behaviors, and it is crippling families. Organizations and governments routinely withhold aid for underdeveloped countries unless they agree to accept contraceptives as part of the package. Sadly, the relevance of *Humanae vitae* has become all too clear. Paralleling this moral slippery slope has been a steady decline in the catechetical formation of our youth. So while *Humanae vitae* remains relevant, the challenge is getting young couples to embrace it, and John Paul II gave us a wonderful way to communicate its message through his Theology of the Body and an experiential approach.

Theology of the Body starts with the *person*—that each of us has an innate dignity and value, and that dignity should be respected. Artificial birth control goes against this dignity because it harms the person—body and soul. You don’t have to be Catholic to understand this simple point. John Paul also emphasized the need to communicate *experientially*. In *Redemptoris missio* he wrote, “People today put more trust in witnesses

than in teachers, in experience than in teaching, and in life and action than in theories. The witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of mission” (*RM*, #42). John Paul had a special gift for reaching out to people, by “meeting them where they are at,” and leading them to the truth. We are called to do the same, and our witness is an important part of that journey to the truth.

Interestingly, CCL was founded only three years after *Humanae vitae* was written in response to Pope Paul VI’s call for the need to teach NFP, “like ministering to like,” which is why the League’s teachers are *married couples*. Today in 2008, CCL is responding to John Paul II’s call for the need to *witness*. While CCL teachers have always shared their experiences with their students, CCL’s new program has made the witness an integral and formalized part of its NFP class. Throughout each of the classes, short talks are prepared by the teaching couples in advance to illustrate key points that are better witnessed than taught. Examples include the effect NFP has had on their marriages, overcoming the challenges of abstinence,

So is *Humanae vitae* relevant today? Absolutely! Pope Paul VI's message is timeless. And with the additional guidance of John Paul II, CCL is doing a much better job communicating that relevance through the witness of its teachers.

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*Andrew Alderson is executive director of the Couple to Couple League.*

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## **NFP Science Before *Humanae vitae***

Larry Kane

A hasty media attack on *Humanae vitae* in 1968 missed a key request in the encyclical calling for scientific research to strengthen natural methods of family planning already in use around the world. This article provides a brief overview of this little known ground-breaking scientific work. Medical/scientific conferences in the United States, England, Canada, Mauritius and at the World Health Organization during the 1960s gave Pope Paul VI convincing evidence that improvements in our understanding of the natural methods were on the way.

Before the American bishops committed a million dollars in response to the papal request to develop Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods, several conferences already had been held in the United States. Msgr. John C. Knott brought his Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (today, USCCB) together in 1964 with the National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guilds (now, Catholic Medical Association), led by Clement P. Cunningham, MD. They hosted 250 participants from five countries. A year later, Father James T. McHugh, then Family Life Director of the bishops' Conference, convened a second conference with Dr. Cunningham. Fr. McHugh, later a bishop, guided Church related programs throughout his priesthood. The second session inaugurated a National Commission on Human Life, Reproduction and Rhythm leading to a third American meeting before *Humanae vitae* was promulgated. At the 1964 session, John Marshall, MD, a psychiatrist and Medical Director of the Marriage Advisory Council in England, reported on his British research. Canadian successes reflected a strong French influence when reported to the Americans by Gilles and Rita Breault, pioneers in the new SERENA movement.

Also in 1964, Dr. Claude Lanctot introduced the Canadian form of couple-to-couple teaching into the Diocese of Hartford. A handbook on *Sympto-Thermic* family planning was published by the Natural Family Planning Association in Connecticut in 1967. These may be the earliest uses of these terms in the United States. Dr. Frank Rice was documenting the Connecticut successes in 1968 publications.

Dr. Konald Prem, chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Minnesota, reported to the 1965 meeting on the effectiveness of the temperature method. Shortly thereafter Planned Parenthood researchers were told by their top statistician, Dr. Christopher Tietze, that the pure temperature method was as effective as the pill. Dr. Edward Keefe started manufacturing a special NFP thermometer before *Humanae vitae* was promulgated and used other symptoms in his early handbooks. Texas Doctor "Tom" Nabors was teaching a correspondence course in those years. Frank Ayd, Jr. MD was explaining the role of psychology in the successful use of the methods.

Drs. John and Lynn Billings had not yet come to the U.S. in the early 1960s but they were at work in Australia on their now world recognized Billings Ovulation Method. In Mauritius, as reported in the American meetings, NFP had been introduced as a method of population moderation. Dr. Rudolph Vollman, then a

scientist at the National Institutes of Health, had compiled temperature records on his Swiss patients documenting their use of natural methods back into the 1940s. Doctors Michelle and François Guy were in the French medical journals with temperature approaches in 1966 as were the Doctors Rendu. Dr. Gerhard K. Döring of Germany published on temperature methods in 1967.

Finally, two full years before *Humanae vitae*, the World Health Organization held a meeting on the *Biology of Fertility Control by Periodic Abstinence* in Geneva. Planned Parenthood and the U.S. government convened an American meeting in Washington just months before the encyclical to study the science of NFP. One can only wonder if the media reaction to the promulgation of *Humanae vitae* would have been more positive if the efforts of scientists' investigation of NFP had been known.

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*Larry Kane was the director of the NFP and Human Life Foundation, the first organization that the U.S. Bishops supported for NFP promotion. The NFPHLF operated in the late 1960s through the 1980s.*

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## Why Catholic? and NFP

Donna Dausman

All the baptized are called to chastity. Sexuality...becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete and lifelong mutual gift of a man and a woman. (Thus,) married people are called to conjugal chastity.\*

Does the above quote sound familiar? To those of us who teach and use Natural Family Planning, these words from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* are something we live and use in our NFP teaching. Often we wish the people in the pews had an opportunity to more readily hear these and other Church teachings which are the basis for the lived experience of NFP and the call to chastity for all.

Wouldn't it be great if an adult formation program designed for all Catholics included information on the inseparable connection of love

and life and how knowing and understanding the connection can enhance married love? Well, one does. *Why Catholic?*, published by Renew International, is an adult formation program being used by a number of parishes and dioceses across the nation. This four year program is based on Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Each booklet contains direct, as well as paraphrased, teaching from the *Catechism*. *Why Catholic?* is designed for a small group format, to facilitate learning and faith sharing in six week sessions running twice each year. Because it follows the *Catechism*, there are sessions on the Creed, Liturgy and the Sacraments, morality and prayer. In both the booklets on Sacraments and morality, chastity and marriage are presented and discussed.

In the book on the Sacraments one reads:

Within marriage, conjugal love should be an expression of the total love that two

people have for each other and should be at the service of life. (CCC, 1653). For serious reasons, a couple by mutual agreement may at times refrain from sexual union during fertile periods. Artificial means to prevent conception are against Church teaching. They may lead to a mentality and culture that are opposed to Christian love. Sacrifice and self denial for the sake of one's spouse or children are at the heart of a happy and fulfilling marriage ("The Celebration of the Christian Mysteries, Sacraments," *Why Catholic?*, p. 72.)

In the book on morality, one reads:

In married love there are two goals of sexuality – mutual love and procreation. Safeguarding both aspects of sexuality is essential because spouses share in both the love and creative power of God (CCC, 2364, 2372) At first glance, the use of artificial contraception would seem

to enhance the goal of expressing mutual love by freeing the couple for spontaneous sexual encounters while avoiding the possibility of conceiving a child. But true sexual freedom can be realized only with the context of mutual discipline, loving commitment, and personal responsibility.” (“Life in Christ, Walking with God,” *Why Catholic?*, p. 64.).

What a powerful witness to living this teaching the NFP couple could give as part of a small group! Consider how many hearts could be opened to this message for those who have never had the opportunity to discern and discuss this teaching in such a format before. If many did so, would we have the NFP teachers and classes necessary to handle such an influx? For now, please take the time to become familiar with *Why Catholic?*, and see how your parish, diocese, or NFP program can become involved and use it to spread the good news of the Church’s teaching on chastity in marriage and NFP.

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#### References

\**Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2348, 2337, 2349.  
*Why Catholic?* Renew International, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007.

*Donna Dausman is the former director of the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and a member of the USCCB’s NFP National Advisory Board.*

## 2008 National NFP Awareness Week Commemorates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Humanae vitae*



**Archdiocese of Detroit:** NFP Coordinator, Dorothy Stapel, reports that a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae* Mass was celebrated by Bishop Quinn at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. A reception followed the Mass. The celebration continued on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a one day conference held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. *Contact Dorothy Stapel, nfp@aod.org.*

**Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston:** Diocesan NFP Consultant, Joe DeVet reports that at the Sunday Masses, pulpit talks in several parishes were offered as well as information tables set up in about 20% of their parishes. Other happy news includes five new teaching locations (parishes) plus one site at the University of St. Thomas were established in the last year. *Contact: Joe DeVet; 1-713- 683-8544; NFPFLM@aol.com.*

**Archdiocese of Denver:** NFP teachers Rob and Sandy Polocz report that the Office of Marriage and Family Life ran an NFP ad in the *Denver Catholic Register*. In select parishes, four CCL teachers gave talks after Mass and handed out literature. In addition, about 100 people attended a CCL membership picnic on July 20th. *Contact: Office of Marriage & Family Life, 1-303-715-3160.*



**Archdiocese of St. Louis:** NFP Coordinator, Diane Daly, RN, CFCE, reports that the Archdiocese cosponsored with the University of St. Louis, NFP Institute (Mary Lee Barron, PhD, RN, director), a two day conference celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae* during NFP Week, July 25-26. In addition, an NFP informational mailing was sent to all priests and deacons and a contest was held for best NFP homily written by a seminarian. The archdiocesan newspaper, *The St. Louis Review* ran an 8 page insert on the anniversary of *Humanae vitae* for the July 18<sup>th</sup> edition. Other special events are also planned that will highlight the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae* until the end of the year. *Contact: Diane.Daly@Mercy.Net; 1-314-991-0327.*

**Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis:** Diocesan NFP Coordinator, Megan Noll, reports that celebrations focused on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae*. Beginning in June, a white paper forum regarding the impact of the encyclical was held at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity. The forum was titled “*Humanae Vitae*, the Person and Thought of John Paul II.” Speakers included: Dr. Kenneth Schmitz, Dr. Janet Smith, and Dr. Pia Francesca de Solenni. During NFP Week, a "Date Night" for engaged and married couples was held. NFP posters were sent to all parishes along with basic information about NFP Week. *Contact: Megan Noll; 1-651-291-4489; nollm@archspm.org.*

**Diocese of Burlington:** NFP Coordinator, Judy Kanya reports that a series of articles were published in the diocesan newspaper over five issues. Articles can be read at [www.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.vermontcatholic.org). Extending the celebration and honoring the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae*, a school student essay contest was also launched on “What is Christian marriage?” *Contact: Judy Kanya, 1-802-658-6110.*

**Diocese of Corpus Christi:** NFP teacher Ann Craig, reports that NFP articles were published in the diocesan newspaper and a celebratory lunch was held with guest speaker, Fr. Peter Marsalekl. *Contact: Ann Craig, 1-361-767-1228.*

**Diocese of Fargo:** Respect Life Office director, and NFP coordinator, Rachele Sauvageau, reports that celebrations for both the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae* and NFP Awareness Week were scheduled for Sept. 6-7. Fr. Matthew Habiger of NFP Outreach,

offered a seminar on *God's Plan for a Grace Filled Marriage*. In addition, he spoke to college students on the issue of same-sex marriage. Fr. Habiger was also a guest on the local Catholic radio station where he discussed issues related to marriage and NFP. *Contact: Rachele Sauvageau, 1-701-356-7910; rachele.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org.*

**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend:** Co-director of the Office of Family Life, Lisa Everett, reported on special dinners and picnics planned throughout the diocese to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae*. *Contact: Lisa Everett, 1-574-234-0687; lisaanneverett@sbcglobal.net.*

**Diocese of Kalamazoo:** Diocesan NFP Coordinator, Mary Culp, reports that an article by Bishop Galeone, as well as the NFP poster were published in the July issue of the diocesan newspaper, *The Good News*. NFP supportive materials were mailed to all priests and deacons. *Contact: Mary Culp; 1-269-964-9474; cuplprat@sbcglobal.net.com.*

**Diocese of Memphis:** Diocesan NFP Director, Mary Pat Van Epps reports that the sanctity of the family and the importance of marriage formed the foundation of a homily by Fr. Ben Bradshaw at a special Mass 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Humanae vitae* Mass on July 25. More than 100 people attended the Mass which was followed by a pot-luck dinner. The festive event included parents with teenagers and babies as well as grandparents and singles too. *Contact: Mary Pat Van Epps, marypat.vanepps@cc.cdom.org.*

**Diocese of Saint Cloud:** Diocesan NFP Coordinator, Sheila Reineke reports that the week was “kicked off” with a Mass on July 18<sup>th</sup> celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Humanae vitae*. Bishop John Kinney's column, “A Shepherd's Care,” addressed marriage and *Humanae vitae*. The diocesan newspaper also included a number of other educational articles and editorials. The 2008 diocesan *Humanae Vitae Award* was given to Fr. Paul Zylla for his efforts in support of Church teachings. NFP Posters were sent all priests, deacons, seminarians, NFP instructors, witness couples, and NFP-only

physicians. The local radio station interviewed Sheila Reineke. *Contact: Sheila Reineke, OTR/L; 1-320-252-4721 x308; sreineke@gw.stcdio.org .*

**Diocese of Wichita:** Family Life Director, Judith Leonard reports that a teacher recognition dinner was held during the week featuring a live video presentation by Alice von Hildebrand. *Contact: Judith Leonard, 1-316-685-6776; msjudy@nfpwichita.org.*

## COORDINATORS' CORNER

### Mainstream NFP Principles—Start with the Family

Alice Heinzen

Our son graduated from medical school last May. During his four years of study, natural methods of family planning were discussed, though the amount of time dedicated to this area of science was woefully limited when compared to the time spent on contraceptive methods. Some of this education was planned in the medical curriculum and some happened by chance.

I clearly remember a call from “our doctor in training” during his second year studies. He said that he had a chance to share some valuable information with his peers that day. A case had been presented to the students describing a woman who appeared to have “hyper” fertility. Despite various pharmaceutical approaches (pill, patch, injections) this patient’s fertility could not be suppressed. She had conceived on all of these contraceptive methods. The question from the professor to the students was, “How can we, as doctors, help this woman with her family planning?”

This was a challenging question for the medical students. The family planning options they would have recommended had been tried and found ineffective. The main answer from the group was to recommend a

permanent method – e.g. direct her to sterilization.

Our son chose to offer another option – teach the woman about her naturally occurring signs of fertility and recommend abstinence during her method defined fertile time if the couple wanted to avoid pregnancy or engage in sexual relations if pregnancy was desired.

The professor looked at our son and said, “Tell me more.” Confidently, he shared what he knew about NFP, its effectiveness, and what it would take to instruct the woman in the method. The professor listened respectfully and then said, “You are correct. This woman should receive instruction on her signs of fertility. Thank you for bringing this to the group’s attention.”

Gratefully, our son was raised in a family where natural methods were “a norm”. He knew that God made males and females complementary. He knew that he would be constantly fertile as a male. He knew his mother and sister had

cycling fertility. He viewed fertility as normal and healthy and accepted that a husband and wife would need to chart if they wanted to know when babies could either be conceived or avoided. His experience in our home formed and prepared him to promote NFP in his chosen career.

This experience opened my eyes to a new NFP program strategy – provide programming that would mainstream natural methods in all families - just as it is in our family. Beginning with this end in mind directed our diocesan program to focus on three Natural Family Planning areas; remote, proximate and immediate preparation. This change in approach is bearing great fruit.

#### Remote Preparation

It comes as no surprise that most of today’s couples are clueless about the Church’s teachings on life and love and how Natural Family Planning allows faithfulness to those teachings. In order to provide remote NFP preparation, our

diocesan NFP program has developed and is currently piloting four, one hour sessions for parents who want their child baptized. These sessions are written to help parents ‘become what they are’ – primary educators for the child. Four tasks of the family (Form a Community of Persons, Serve Life, Participate in the Development of Society and Share in the Life and Mission of the Church) from the Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris consortio* are introduced and explained. Through these studies, the parents begin opening their hearts to the beauty of God’s plan for life, love and the holy expression of human sexuality.

### Proximate Preparation

Eventually, parents will watch their children become young adults. This may be a time of anxiety for many parents. To counter this apprehension and to support families in their understanding of God’s plan, our diocesan program presents a three session program called *Teaching the Way of Love*. The families that complete the series overcome their lack of proper formation during their childhood and young adult years. The program unfolds the awesome physiological truths of human fertility first in parent only presentations and later with parents and their children. As the parents and children learn the basic scientific principles that form the foundation for future instruction in NFP, they are also instructed in practical ways to help the cardinal virtues flourish within their family. They recognize that it is possible and right to support Church teaching of saving sexual activity for marriage. And, they commit to support each other in the pursuit of

purity. All these actions foster openness to natural methods within marriage rather than sliding into a contra-ceptive mentality.

### Immediate Preparation

This segment of NFP program-ming is, understandably, the main focus of most diocesan programs. It is where most of our effort is directed. We work hard on the development and maintenance of easily accessible, cost effective NFP instruction. We coordinate instruction that spans group or individualized education and ensure that a variety of formats (face to face, home study, on-line) are available. Additionally, we provide support and assist local couples through websites, newsletters and office consultations. Finally, we maintain USCCB *Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry*.

While immediate preparation receives the most time and effort in structured NFP programs, success of the program truly depends on planting the seeds of natural methods long before the couples come in for instruction. Consideration should be given to offer all couples Catholic Church teachings on life and love at every stage of family life. Young parents, school age parents, parents of young adults need access to God’s beautiful plan for human sexuality well in advance of a formal NFP class. Doing so increases the number of young adults who see wisdom in

Catholic Church teaching and consider natural methods as normal and good.

It is true that expanding an NFP program to include remote and proximate preparation is more demanding. It is true that these initiatives will require collaboration with other diocesan offices. It is also true that the fruit of this labor will not be realized immediately. Yet, the possibility of spreading God’s truth well beyond our imagination is too great to overlook. I would never have imagined that the faithful practice of NFP would produce the fruit it did that day two years ago in our son’s medical school lecture. God’s grace and spirit can only take wing if we open ourselves and the families we serve to His call.

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*Alice Heinzen is the NFP Coordinator for the Diocese of La Crosse, WI. She can be contacted at: aheinzen@dioceseoflacrosse.com.*

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### A “team-teaching” approach to recruiting new NFP teachers

Mary Pat Van Epps

Since most diocesan NFP programs can always use more NFP Teachers, I have an idea that might help find some new people who are willing to teach NFP. If your diocesan program conducts NFP classes in a classroom type setting for multiple couples, this may be just what you need.

(Continued on p. 12)

There are many people who are committed NFP users and probably promoters too because they tell everybody they know about NFP. You know they have the calling and desire to help spread the good news about NFP, but they just do not want to be the “teacher” in front of the classroom. You can ask these people if they would be willing to do “one on one” teaching with individual couples after the classroom sessions are over. They could do the follow-up with the couples assigned to them after the class and follow them through to autonomy.

Teachers who work with individual couples might be more comfortable and happy serving and teaching in that capacity. Of course they would have to go through an approved Teacher Training Program and be certified to teach, but everyone is not called to be a “classroom” teacher, and there are lots of people out there who would make great teachers working with couples individually.

This strategy is a “team teaching” approach with one teacher handling the lecture part of the classes (the “classroom teacher”) while a second teacher works with couples individually and after class. The follow-up teacher would be responsible for all follow-up sessions until the student couple reaches autonomy.

This simple idea might just be the one that will work for your program. Think about it!

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*Mary Pat Van Epps is the director of the Diocese of Memphis NFP Center; 1-901-373-1285; marypat.vanepps @cc.cdom.org; www.cdom.org*

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## **NFP Witness and Marriage Preparation**

Michael Castagno

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Marriage Preparation Policy, which was promulgated by Cardinal Justin Rigali in April 2005, states:

. . . the components for any Catholic Marriage preparation program are to include . . . a presentation on Natural Family Planning which builds upon Church teaching on human sexuality and the principle of Responsible Parenthood. It is recommended that this include a witness component from an NFP practicing couple.”

In response to this requirement, the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in conjunction with the Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Network (PNFPN) has formed a Witness Couples Speakers’ Center.

The Speakers’ Center is a resource to be used by priests, deacons and pre-Cana teams throughout the Philadelphia Archdiocese. It was established in order to give powerful witness to engaged couples about the virtues of Natural Family Planning, and its most positive impact on marriage. Our witness couples have also been invited to give talks at area high schools and colleges.

The witness presentation itself consists of three components: 1) a brief overview of the basics of what NFP is, “how it works,” etc.; 2) communication about what the Church teaches about the purpose and nature of human sexuality, including responsible parenthood; and 3) a personal witness as to the many benefits NFP brings to the couple's marital relationship. The witness presentation is generally about an hour in length.

Since its formation in July 2007, The Witness Couple Center has had many requests for presentations and, with a few exceptions, we've been able fill them all. We presently have twelve witness couples who have been through training, but we do need more “workers in the vineyard.” The more witness couples we have, the better we will be able to meet the growing demand for speakers. All that is required is a willingness to speak passionately about NFP. Training is provided and a stipend is paid to the witness couple. The time commitment

depends upon what a witness couple agrees to work. Witness couples choose how often, where, and when they speak.

Engaged couples, as St. Paul says, should be shown “a better way.” If we do not “get the message out,” and at least provide the basic information on NFP and Church teachings which support its use in marriage, most couples will be left in the dark. NFP witness couples working with diocesan teams can ensure that the message and blessings of NFP are heard!

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*Michael Castagno is part of the Philadelphia NFP Network. He can be reached at: 1-215-884-8555, ext 10. Michael's wife, Lisann Castagno, is the NFP Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She can be contacted at: 1-610-660-9002; mandlcastagno@aol.com. If you live in the Philadelphia Archdiocese and surrounding area, please consider joining the Speakers' Center.*

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## NEWS BRIEFS

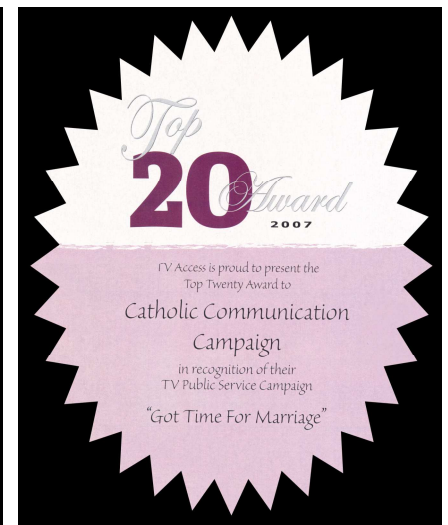
### Announcements

**One-day diocesan NFP meeting at NACFLM 2009 Conference.** On June 24, 2009, the NFPP will hold a one-day meeting for diocesan NFP coordinators and their teachers. This will be held in conjunction with the 2009 conference of the National Association of Family Life Ministers (see ad), at St. Thomas University in St. Paul. The day will include NFP programming sessions and time for networking. A registration fee of \$85.00 will cover meals at the Student Center for the day. Noon Mass will be held in the University Chapel. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks. Watch for e-mailings and via post. Early registration can be made by contacting, Elizabeth Cortright, NFPP, USCCB, 3211 4<sup>th</sup> St., NE, Washington, DC 20017; 1-202-541-3240; nfp@usccb.org. Make checks payable to: “NFPP, USCCB.”

**Doctorate awarded to NFPP Assistant Director.** Through the grace of God, and after eighteen years of part-time enrollment in the Catholic University of America's

doctoral program in Catholic Church History, NFPP Assistant Director, Theresa Notare successfully defended her dissertation on August 26 and was awarded her PhD on September 25, 2008. Dr. Notare's dissertation will be of interest to NFPers – she wrote on Resolution #15 of the Anglican 1930 Lambeth Conference. Resolution #15 represents the first official break in the Christian tradition on the issue of the morality of artificial birth control. Plans are underway to find a publisher for this work. Stay tuned for further information!

**John and Sheila Kippley honored.** For their pioneering work in Natural Family Planning ministry, the Franciscan University of Steubenville will grant John and Sheila Kippley an honorary doctorate on December 13, 2008. *Congratulations can be sent to: John and Sheila Kippley, at NFP International, P. O. Box 11216, Cincinnati OH 45211.*



**USCCB's Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth** received a Nielsen award for its Public Service TV commercials supporting marriage. The project is part of the National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage. The commercials were funded by a grant from the Catholic Communications Campaign. To view the commercials see: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org>. Choose “TV spots” on the bottom of the page.

## Events

**July 29-August 2, 2008:** The Couple to Couple League's biennial convention, Lifeway Ridgecrest Conference Center, Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina. Speakers included Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Andy Alderson, Petra Frank, Chris Thompson, and Gregory Popcack. To download main talks, see: <http://ccli.org/resources/podcasts/conventiontalks.php>.

**September 6, 2008:** A European Congress on Fertility Awareness Based Methods entitled, *Fertility Awareness: The Missing Cornerstone*, was held in Antwerp, Belgium. Marquette University's Richard Fehring, PhD, RN delivered a paper. The conference was held in collaboration with the Flemish Association of Midwives and the Department of Gynaecology at University of Antwerp, Brussels and the Department of Gynaecology at the University of Antwerp, Louvain. Sessions addressed the medical and biological aspects of fertility awareness based methods. *Contact: Pierre Hernalsteen +32-03-455-16-97; Boecheuselei 1 BE-2640 Mortsel, Belgium; info@nfp.be*

**September 13, 2008:** The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the St. Augustine Foundation, co-sponsored a health care symposium in Philadelphia. The main speaker was Thomas W. Hilgers, MD. Clinical professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Creighton University School of Medicine and director of the Pope Paul VI Institute, Omaha. *Contact: Barbara Rose, RN, 215-884-2922; savro@verizon.net.*

**November 7-8, 2008:** Diocese of Phoenix's two-day conference entitled, "Restless Hearts: Rediscovering the Art of Living and Loving in the Modern World," commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Humanae vitae*. Jennifer Roback-Morse is the featured speaker. Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted will celebrate the closing Liturgy. *See: www.phxnfpvents.org; Contact: 1-602-225-0636.*

**November 11-13, 2008:** Couple to Couple League hosts a clergy seminar in Ft. Mitchell, KY. Speakers include: Fr. Matthew Habiger, OSB, Paul Busam, MD and Andy Alderson. *Contact: Rich Braun, 1-800-745-8252.*

**November 19, 2008:** The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's NFP and Church teaching seminar for archdiocesan seminarians. Speakers include: Vickie Thorn, Project Rachel, and Theresa Notare, PhD, USCCB. *Contact: Lydia LoCoco, Director, The Nazareth Project for Marriage and Family Formation, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, 414-758-2214; www.johnpaul2center.org.*

**November 21-23, 2008:** The Archdiocese of New York hosts a weekend of prayer and networking for all Family Life/Pro-Life/NFP Directors, and Coordinators at Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreat House, Stamford, CT (see ad with full schedule below).

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## 2009

**January 14-18, 2009:** The Pontifical Council on the Family, Vatican City, will hold the Sixth World Congress on the Family, in Mexico City. The World Congress on the Family is for any family life minister. This is a multi-language congress and translation of all sessions will be provided.

The Congress is comprised of the following three parts:

January 14-16:

The Theological-Pastoral Congress, held at the Conference Centre, Expo Bancomer, Santa Fe, Mexico City

Theme: "The Family, Teacher of Human and Christian Values"

January 17: The Festive Celebration of Testimonies by Families, held at the Azteca Stadium. Scheduled to start at 6:00 PM

January 18: Concluding Mass. Begins at 9:30 AM at the Basilica of Guadalupe.

Please consider sending a delegation from your diocese: See: [www.wmf2009.com](http://www.wmf2009.com).

**June 5-7, 2009:** One More Soul, Canada will hold a Theology of the Body Conference, Saskatoon, Canada. Speakers include: Dr. Janet Smith, Christopher West, Dr. Michael Waldstein, and Dr. Mary Martin. *Contact: 306-3584248 or 866-966-7685; info@canada.omsoul.com.*

## Materials/Resources

!!!!!!!!!!NEW-NEW-NEW-NEW!!!!!!!!!!

**Introduction to NFP DVD.** Diocese of Rockville Centre, Office of Faith Formation, Rockville Centre, NY has available the DVD, *Plan Your Family Naturally, An Introduction to Natural Family Planning*. This film is perfect for both marriage preparation programs and NFP introduction sessions. It provides basic NFP science and general information on methods. It also features a variety of couples who witness to living the Church's teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood within marriage. The Spanish version is forthcoming in 2009. *Contact: Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Rockville Centre, 516-678-5800; trailer can be viewed at <https://www.drvc-faith.org/marriage/DvdOffering.html>.*


!!!!!!!!!!NEW-NEW-NEW-NEW!!!!!!!!!!

**Diocese of Fargo's Unique NFP Marketing.** The Respect Life Office has created "Restroom Ads" (see image, "Misconceptions about conception") to invite people to consider NFP. These ads are posted in church restrooms at adult level height. This form of advertisement is tailored for the parishes. Supporting these ads is information in the diocesan newspaper. Reprints of Fr. Matthew Habiger's "NFP Q & A's" is regularly featured in the diocesan newspaper. *Contact: Rachele Sauvageau, 1-701-356-7910; [rachele.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org](mailto:rachele.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org).*

**Misconceptions about conception...**  
Have you ever heard the phrase "the Church should just keep its nose out of the marriage bed!"?

What many people often times fail to understand about the Catholic Church's teaching on love, sex, and babies is that it sees parenting as a privilege and responsibility entrusted to married couples by God. It is a responsibility that should take into consideration the physical, economic and psychological conditions of the family when thinking about a new birth. It is also a responsibility that is respectful of a man and woman's fertility.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) allows a couple to exercise responsible parenthood in a way that cooperates with God's plan for love and life. One couple shares that "the natural family planning lifestyle has made us cherish one another and our children as gifts from God. We also have come to understand the specific roles and dignity we each hold as men and women created in God's image. Living our vows according to God's design has helped us move out of a very selfish mentality allowing us to better love and serve others first, especially within our family."  
*Bill and Jen*



NFP is good for me, for my health, and for my marriage.  
To receive a free CD and booklet on NFP go to:  
[www.fargodiocese.org/NFP](http://www.fargodiocese.org/NFP)

**Misconceptions about conception...**  
Have you ever thought to yourself, "In this day of modern technology, does the Church really expect me to have baby after baby?!"



Respecting the gift of our fertility can be a challenge in light of what science can offer to couples. Do you know that the birth control pill can be 98-99% effective, but it puts women at risk for breast cancer and other serious diseases?

Natural Family Planning (NFP) on the other hand, is a highly scientific approach to planning one's family that is 99% effective and has no negative health effects because it does not use drugs or hormones. It does not cause a barrier to full, intimate marital expression as contraceptive devices can do.

Here's what one couple says about making the switch from contraception to Natural Family Planning, "We stopped contracepting due to a total conviction that the Catholic Church teaches the fullness of God's truth in every aspect of life and faith. We wanted to live in accordance with the wisdom of the Church, especially regarding our own bodies and our marriage covenant." *Darrin and Dina*

The Catholic Church teaches that parenthood is a responsibility that is respectful of a man and woman's fertility. It is a responsibility meant to be exercised in light of a husband's and wife's duties to God, to each other, to children who are already part of the family, and to society.

NFP is good for me, for my health, and for my marriage.  
To receive a free CD and booklet on NFP go to:  
[www.fargodiocese.org/NFP](http://www.fargodiocese.org/NFP)

**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend** has available for purchase a booklet entitled, *Faith & Fertility, What the Church teaches and why*, by Lisa Everett. In addition to Church teachings, this booklet provides NFP couple witness articles. Sold at \$3.00 each, discounts are given for bulk orders. *Contact: Office of Family Life, 1-574-234-0687; [lisaanneverett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lisaanneverett@sbcglobal.net).*

**Diocese of Lansing** has developed a new shorter edition (30 minute) of the video, *Introduction to Natural Family Planning*, available in both English and Spanish in DVD format. The original 55 minute video is also available in DVD format. *Contact: nfp@dioceseoflansing.org; NFP Program, Diocese of Lansing, 300 W Ottawa St. Lansing MI 48933*

**Diocese of Trenton** has launched a *Humanae vitae* web site where resources relating to the encyclical can be found. To view, see: <http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/church/humanaevitae.asp>. *Contact: Peg Hensler, coordinator, Marriage Ministries and NFP, Diocese of Trenton; 1-609-406-7400, ext 5556.*

**Diocese of Wichita** has available novena cards calling for the conversion of couples' hearts to reject contraception and live the Church's teachings on responsible parenthood. *Contact: Office of Family Life and NFP, 1-800-813-2410.*

**Institute for NFP, Marquette University, College of Nursing**, has a new Spanish-language version of their [web site](http://nfp.marquette.edu/es/index.php). See <http://nfp.marquette.edu/es/index.php>. In addition, the Institute also has available a PowerPoint generic NFP introduction presentation with accompanying commentary and evaluation form. *Contact: Richard Fehring, richard.fehring@marquette.edu.*

**Knights of Columbus** have launched a web site aimed at strengthening fatherhood. Called, "Fathers for Good," the site can be viewed at: [www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org).

**Marquette University Press** has available the proceedings from the interdisciplinary conference, *Human Fertility—Where Faith and Science Meet, August 2006*. Topics cover theological, philosophical, historical and scientific themes. *Contact: Marquette University Press, 1-800-247-6553.*

**NFP International** has a six-panel brochure promoting breastfeeding. Offered in two versions, one featuring a Caucasian mother and child and the other featuring an African-American mother and child, both are offered for free downloads at their website. Choose "NEW" on the home page. Free glossy printed samples, are also available. Send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope (Caucasian image only at this time). *Contact: John F Kippley, NFP International, P. O. Box 11216, Cincinnati OH 45211; www.NFPandmore.org.*

**The Ruth Institute** has available an easy to use four part video and audio educational series called "Same Sex Marriage Affects Everyone." Jennifer Roback Morse, PhD, author of *Smart Sex, Finding Life Long Love in a Hook-Up World*, is the founder and president of the Ruth Institute. The mission of the Institute is to bring hope and encouragement for life-long married love, for the benefit of men, women, and children. The same-sex marriage series enables people to defend the nature of marriage as being between a man and a woman. A "home party kit" is designed for hosting educational events in small groups. To view the kit see, [www.ruthinstitute.org](http://www.ruthinstitute.org). *Contact: Ruth Institute, 1-760-295-9278.*

**Sheila Kippley's** books, *Breastfeeding and Natural Child Spacing* and *The Seven Standards of Ecological Breastfeeding: The Frequency Factor*, are now available at <http://www.lulu.com/en/buy>.

**USCCB Publishing** has available a new document, *Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living, Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication*. This important booklet provides an outline of the teaching of the Church regarding chaste living in outline format with accompanying references from Scripture and Church documents. It is a "must" for any one who is responsible for educating the faithful on this important subject. *Contact: USCCB Publishing, 1-800-235-8722; or visit www.usccbpublishing.org. Ask for publication #7-043.*



## USCCB Publishing also has available the following prayer cards:

### *Prayer for Married Couples*



<http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1003>

This 4" X 6" inch card features photos of married couples' hands in the different stages of married life. The prayer is on the reverse side.

### *Prayer for Families*



<http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=394>

Spanish: <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=395>

The image features a beautiful icon of the Holy Family. The prayer is on the opposite side.

### *A Prayer for Fathers*



<http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=428>

This prayer card features a lovely close-up photograph of a father's hand holding his child's hand. The prayer is on the opposite side.

### *Prayer for Mothers*



<http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=622>

This prayer card features four reproductions of paintings of mothers. The prayer is on the opposite side.

### *A Prayer for Life*



<http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=352>

Spanish: <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=355>

The cover of this prayer card features a reproduction of a Renaissance Madonna and Child. The prayer is on the opposite side.

**Please also remember that novena prayers to Saints Anne and Joachim are available in English and Spanish from the USCCB's Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. To view, see: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/StsAnne&JoachimNovena.pdf>. Orders: [customerservice@ifcweb.com](mailto:customerservice@ifcweb.com) or call toll-free, -866-582-0943.**

Also available from the Pro-Life Secretariat is a novena to the Blessed Mother commemorating her Annunciation. To view, see: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/AnnunciationNovena.pdf> (So sorry, this novena is not yet available in Spanish.)



# NACFLM CONFERENCE JUNE 25-28, 2009

WWW.NACFLM.ORG/DISPLAYCOMMON.CFM?AN=1&SUBARTICLENBR=44

## JUNE 24 – DIOCESAN NFP MEETING ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

### Implementing the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Initiative on Marriage

#### Speakers and Topics

##### *Speakers*

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, “State of Our Unions”  
Dennis Stoica, “Strategies for Becoming a Marriage-Building Church”  
John Grabowski, “The Sacrament of Marriage: Love for a Lifetime”  
Helen Alvare, “Faith and Reason in Service to Marriage and the Family”  
Panel of Bishops, “Promoting, Protecting, and Preserving Marriage”  
*Also: Christopher West and Fr. Britto Berchmans*

##### *Workshop Topics*

- Practical tips for marriage ministry
- Scripture, prayer and sacraments
- The mystery of love
- Young adult discernment
- Natural Family Planning
- Convalidation
- Cultural, multicultural and media issues
- Community marriage initiatives
- Pastoral counseling issues
- Church documents
- Marriage in later years
- Family systems
- Hurting marriages

##### FEES

##### **Full Conference Earlybird**

\$200 per individual, \$300 per couple NACFLM members  
\$235 per individual, \$335 per couple non-member

##### **After May 15th**

\$235 per individual, \$335 per couple NACFLM member  
\$270 per individual, \$370 per couple non-member

##### **Food, Lodging and Facilities - \$85 per person per day, \$135 per couple per day**

Lodging provided will be in 4-bedroom air-conditioned apartments, each with 2 bathrooms  
Dorm and local hotels available with shuttle service to University also available

##### **One-Day Cost**

\$100 per individual or \$150 per couple (includes food)

**See web site for registration information:**

**<http://www.nacflm.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=44>**



**You are invited...**

**Family Life/Pro-Life/NFP Directors, and Coordinators  
are invited to attend a  
Weekend of Prayer and Networking**

Hosted by the Archdiocese of New York Family Life/ Respect Life Office

Join us for a weekend of prayer and networking with diocesan leaders. It will be an opportunity to share ideas and program models in an informal retreat setting. In the spirit of learning, sharing and collaboration, bring your materials and experiences for those who work in similar areas. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. The cost of the conference is \$200 per person.

**November 21-23, 2008**

**Villa Maria Guadalupe Retreat House**

**159 Sky Meadow Drive**

**Stamford, CT 06903**

Contact Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SV, [sr.mary.elizabeth@archny.org](mailto:sr.mary.elizabeth@archny.org)

**Schedule:**

**Friday**

Registration Friday afternoon Friday (Thursday arrival available)

4:00 Evening Prayer and rosary

5:00 Dinner with Introductions

7:15 Spiritual Conference

8:00 - midnight Eucharistic Adoration/ reconciliation

**Saturday**

8:00 Morning Prayer

8:30 Mass

9:30 Breakfast

10:30 Break out sessions

12:00 free time

1:00 Lunch

2:30 Break out sessions cont'd

3:45 free time

5:00 Spiritual Conference

6:00 Evening Prayer and rosary

7:00 Dinner

8:00 - midnight Eucharistic Healing Procession followed by Adoration

**Sunday**

9:30 Morning Prayer

10:00 Mass

11:00 Brunch

1:00 Departure

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