

Natural Family Planning



Diocesan Activity Report

Vol. 4, No. 3, Summer 1993

Human Sexuality from God's Perspective: Humanae Vitae 25 Years Later.

The Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities

The Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities issued a commemorative statement on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the encyclical *Humanae vitae*. The full text follows:

INTRODUCTION

It is clear in the Scriptures that God looks at the world and human life differently from human beings with their limited vision. His comprehensive view encompasses the whole of the human family and all the ages and all eternity. He willed to share with women and men a unique role in His creative generativity which makes human sexuality unique in all creation. It is this uniqueness, revealed to us by God in the gradual unfolding of His salvific plan, that Pope Paul VI invoked in his prophetic encyclical *Humanae vitae* (*On Human Life*) published twenty-five years ago (1968).

Due to our world's increasing technological ability to prevent conception, many today view human sexuality in a purely pragmatic way. They believe that we are simply sexual beings who instinctively seek to be sexually active. From a physiological and psychological point of view, sexual intercourse is looked on as solely a natural response to human instinct and human need. Science is often called upon to help people divorce sexual activity from the prospect of unwanted pregnancy and free them from religious teachings which are thought to inhibit freedom. This is a secular perspective about human sexuality which has become pervasive and

dominant in our culture. But it is a very limited perspective, a perspective devoid of God's revelation about the uniqueness of human life, a perspective unmindful of the data gathered from our observations about the true nature of human sexuality.

This is why, in the face of growing opposition to the Church's teaching about human sexuality, Pope Paul VI issued *Humanae vitae* twenty-five years ago. He understood then, as the Church understands today, the responsibility to keep God's revelation as part of the equation in viewing human sexuality. It is not just instinct, human desire or need which must be considered in human sexual activity. One must understand human life and the human spirit which transcends biology and humanistic philosophy. Human sexual activity cannot be separated from the nature and dignity of human life and the process by which that life is transmitted.

And so this year we commemorate the 25th anniversary of *Humanae vitae*, in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage and the responsible transmission of human life. Pope Paul based his encyclical on the natural law as illumined by divine revelation and consistently taught by the Church. Expanding on this teaching, especially as expressed

(Continued on page 2.)

In This Issue . . .

we offer the full text of the Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities' statement on the anniversary of *Humanae vitae*. We also include excerpts of the Holy Father's talk on Marriage and Family Life to a group of our bishops (p. 4). The week long international conference on the 25th anniversary of *Humanae vitae* in Omaha, is reported on. Many exciting things happened during that week, especially a meeting of American NFP national providers (p. 12), and be sure to also catch a glimpse of the conference in the "photo essay" on pp. 6-10!

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in the Second Vatican Council's *Gaudium et spes* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World), he presented a dignified and unified vision of marriage, sexuality and family life. On this 25th anniversary we wish to reaffirm the teaching of *Humanae vitae* as the authentic and constant teaching of the Magisterium.

Paul VI spoke of marriage as "the wise institution of the Creator to realize in humanity His design of love" (HV, #8). In this way, he set the context in which we might better understand and appreciate the love that exists between husband and wife, the love that exists between parent and child. He set the context too for understanding the dignity of human sexual activity as one of the ways in which married couples express their love for one another.

God's love is total. It is permanent. His love is an unlimited gift of Himself to us, His children. As Catholic Christians, this understanding of God's love serves as the foundation of our teachings on marriage as a sacrament. In marriage, spouses live a true communion of persons in the Lord. The sign value of marital love lies precisely in its ability to mirror God's love. Marriage is therefore a vocation, a real path to union with God.

Conjugal Love

In *Humanae vitae* Pope Paul recognized conjugal love as eminently human, but rooted in God's love for His people. He saw it as the dynamic element in every marriage, bringing permanence to the marriage and enabling the couple to make wise, generous and responsible decisions about the spacing of births and the size of their family. *Humanae vitae* provides a positive and dignified understanding of sexuality as a gift from God which ennoble, enriches, and reconciles married couples. Through sexual union, couples strengthen their marital relationship and participate in a special way in God's creation of new life. From this follows the profound meaning of a life of intimacy—that communion of

two persons who must be open to each other in a mutual self donation that reaches its apex in the loving union that bears fruit in children. Sexuality, then, is not merely a matter of biology, nor is it simply a source of personal pleasure. Rather, it concerns, as Pope John Paul II reminds us in the Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris consortio*, (*The Family in the Modern World*),

... the innermost being of the human person as such. It is realized in a truly human way only if it is an integral part of the love by which a man and woman commit themselves totally to one another until death. (FC, #11)

Spouses are called to celebrate their conjugal love by becoming one flesh in the Lord, and to see their sexual intimacy in the context of God's creative role and the nature of marriage itself. By remaining open to life each time they come together in the conjugal embrace, by preserving "the two meanings of the conjugal act: the unitive meaning and the procreative meaning" (HV, #12), married couples reverence the presence of God in their union. In truth, the Church teaches that there are two aspects of marital intercourse—the strengthening of interpersonal unity between the spouses and the procreation of new life. These two goods are inseparable—not in the sense that both must be achieved in every act of conjugal intimacy, but in the sense that one may not deliberately act against either good in any act of conjugal intimacy.

Responsible Parenthood

Complementing its teaching on conjugal love, Paul VI reaffirmed the Church's tradition that responsible parenthood flows from the intimate communion that is at the heart of the meaning of marriage. Too often, childbearing is characterized as burdensome, risky, destructive of personal aspirations, and dangerous for a world thought by some to be already overpopulated. But in reality, married couples also experience a profound desire to share their life and

love by cooperating with God in creating new life and building a family.

The teaching of *Humanae vitae* reminds us that parenthood is a privilege as well as a responsibility. Couples are able to associate themselves in the deepest and closest way with God in the work of procreation. They are able, in John Paul II's words, "to serve life, to actualize in history the original blessing of the Creator—that of transmitting by procreation the divine image from person to person" (FC, #28). Today it is especially important to remember that each child is a unique and unrepeatable person and a testimony to the love of his or her parents as well as a testimony to the love of God. Too often the personal joys of parenthood and the promise that children hold for the future are overlooked or denigrated. All who follow Christ must see each child as a creature of God endowed with inestimable dignity who is called to accomplish his or her human destiny and to take an active role in the Church's missionary vocation.

Responsible parenthood, then, implies a positive openness to life. It is a decision that couples make mutually and prayerfully, confident that God's grace will complement their generosity. Couples should make decisions about spacing births and the size of their families free of coercion or pressure. Taking into account their mutual responsibilities to God, themselves, their family, and the society of which they are a part in a correct hierarchy of values, a couple may responsibly decide to delay childbearing. Or a husband or wife may conclude that they are unable to have more children. In the formation of their consciences, however, the couple must be well instructed in and guided "by objective standards . . . that preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love" (GS, #51).

We recognize the problems and difficulties couples face in making decisions about parenthood. Concerns about economic stability, employment, health,

care, education of children, or fulfilling existing responsibilities must be taken into account; and these concerns may suggest the avoidance, at least for the time being, of another birth. But we also recognize that unsubstantiated claims about population growth and cultural attitudes that diminish the value of the child may induce fear of having more than one or two children. These pressures compromise the freedom of the couple. We recall the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that "*children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute very substantially to the welfare of their parents*" (GS, #50). We also recognize that for some couples, despite their intense desire, childbearing does not occur. At the same time,

... those merit special mention who with a gallant heart, and with wise and common deliberation, undertake to bring up suitably even a relatively large family. (GS, #50)

Negative Influences

Studies of marriage and family life in the United States chronicle an increase in non-marital cohabitation, out-of-wedlock pregnancy, abortion, and divorce. To some degree these phenomena reflect the state of confusion many people experience with regard to the meaning of human sexuality. For others, it is a clear rejection of moral principles and a trivialization of sex itself. They also reflect an exaggerated individualism and a flight from intimacy and commitment. At the same time, we are keenly aware of an increase in the incidence of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and sexual violence. All this has profound and destructive effects not only on individual persons but on society as well. The family is universally recognized as the basic unit of society, and the well being of society depends on the stability and vitality of the family. When a society permits sexual behavior to be torn from its

moorings in human love and marriage, when it treats sex as a mechanism for personal pleasure, it encourages a destructive mentality and diminishes the value of personal commitment and of human life itself. To a large degree this is the situation in our nation today.

Natural Family Planning

As we reflect on the teaching of *Humanae vitae*, we recognize the advances in natural family planning and the efforts of scientists, pastors, and married couples committed to "*instilling conviction and offering practical help to those who wish to live out their parenthood in a truly responsible way*" (FC, #35). With proper instruction, married couples can readily understand the cycle of fertility and they are able to plan and space births in a way that is both consistent with God's law and supportive of their own intimacy and unity. Natural family planning, as Pope John Paul II reminds us, "*involves accepting dialogue, reciprocal respect, shared responsibility and self-control*" (FC, #32). And as Paul VI noted in *Humanae vitae*, its benefits to married couples are many:

It [NFP] demands continual effort, yet, thanks to its beneficent influence, husband and wife fully develop their personalities, being enriched with spiritual values. Such discipline bestows upon family life fruits of serenity and peace, and facilitates the solution of other problems; it favors attention for one's partner, helps both parties to drive out selfishness, the enemy of true love, and deepens their sense of responsibility. By its means, parents acquire the capacity of having a deeper and more efficacious influence in the education of their offspring. . . . (HV, #21)

Natural family planning gives couples a richer appreciation of human

sexuality and of their own marital relationship, and it strengthens their openness to childbearing.

CONCLUSION

Humanae vitae represents a call to celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality. It reminded us that we are stewards of God's gifts of marital love and procreation. It sounded a prophetic message for people to live chastely, to welcome children and protect families, and never to treat human life as a commodity. Ultimately, it challenged the People of God to grow in Christian maturity.

Realizing that 25 years represents the coming of a new generation, it is our hope that the new generation might read *Humanae vitae* and hear its gentle and loving message. In the face of a society that has lost sight of the profound meaning of marital intimacy, a society that has separated sexuality from married love, and intimacy from procreation, it is important to call everyone to listen once again to the wisdom of *Humanae vitae* and to make the Church's teaching the foundation for a renewed understanding of marriage and family life.

Recalling the teachings expressed in *Humanae vitae*, we renew our commitment to respect for human life. We rededicate ourselves to increase our efforts to expand Christian education, pastoral programs for engaged and married couples, and natural family planning services. We will work to dispel the sexual confusions of our age and strive to help our brothers and sisters respect the "*laws written by God*" in our very nature, laws which we "*must observe with intelligence and love*" (HV, #31).

In our pastoral efforts, and support of the Church's consistent teaching as presented in *Humanae vitae*, on this 25th anniversary, we pledge ourselves to,

... work ardently and incessantly for the safeguarding and the holiness of marriage, so that it may always be lived in its entire human and Christian fulness. (HV, #30) ■

Ad Limina Visit of American Bishops Yields Encouragement to Support NFP Programs

On June 8, 1993 the bishops from Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming (NCCB "Region 13") made their "ad limina" visit to Rome. During their meeting, the Holy Father noted that the theme for previous meetings with bishops from the United States centered on the need for a spiritual renewal in the life of the Church in the U.S.A. The specific topic of the Holy Father's talk on this occasion was "Marriage and Holy Orders". The following excerpts of the Holy Father's talk highlight his concern that NFP services be strengthened in the dioceses.

This year the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of *Humanae vitae*, in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the teaching on the immorality of separating—intentionally and by artificial means—the two intrinsic meanings of the marital act: the unitive and the procreative (*HV*, #14). This teaching has been repeated over and over again in the Church during the past 25 years (cf. *Familiaris consortio*, #29-33). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* clearly reaffirms it (*CCC*, #2370). However, inadequate and insufficient explanation is

at least partially responsible for the fact that many Catholics have difficulty in applying that teaching. The challenge is to make better known and appreciated the dignity and joy of human sexuality lived according to the truth of the body's nuptial meaning. In programs for marriage preparation and other pastoral efforts directed to the support of marriage and family life, couples should be presented with the full truth of God's plan for living their conjugal love with integrity.

Again, I encourage you and your

brother bishops of the United States to give generous support to natural family planning programs. Each diocese should candidly examine its priorities to determine whether it provides the necessary means to make better known the natural methods of regulating fertility (cf. *FC*, #35). Likewise, in your ministry you should inspire confidence and hope in parents, emphasizing the joys and challenges of their vocation. Pastoral charity requires that Church agencies be particularly concerned with families in difficulty, broken families, one-parent families, but it also demands that the central object of the Church's pastoral attention should be the traditional stable family where education, socialization, and transmission of Catholic faith and values is accomplished. The Holy See, acknowledging the value of the United Nations proposal to make 1994 the "Year of the Family," has willingly adhered to that initiative. At the local level, dioceses and Catholic institutions are called to take this opportunity in order to increase their efforts to defend and promote family life. ■

Report on the International *Humanae Vitae* Conference, Omaha, NE, July 25-30, 1993

On Sunday, July 25, 1993, some 2,000 people converged on Omaha, Nebraska in order to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the encyclical *Humanae vitae*. Traveling from all parts of the United States as well as from over 20 countries and 6 continents, participants of this conference represented a true "slice" of the Church! Families (including many a nursing baby), clergy, religious, scientists, NFP teachers, NFP promoters and researchers, health care professionals, and "simple folk" interested in NFP formed

the group. A spirit of real enthusiasm and family permeated the week long conference.

The opening ceremonies of the conference were especially inspiring. With the Omaha Civic Auditorium serving as the backdrop, hundreds of people gathered for prayer and presentations. Marching to the sound of trumpet and timpani, a procession which included the many NFP providers and bishops made their way to the stage. Carrying individual banners representing their programs, the NFP providers looked

like a sea of swaying symbols of years of dedication and hard work. As this long procession continued and the banners were placed around the auditorium words cannot express the emotion which swept through the auditorium. This single procession probably captured the love and commitment of all in attendance.

The roster of speakers and guests was equally inspiring. All the national American NFP providers were represented: Billings Ovulation Method Association, USA, Hanna Klaus, M.D.;

Couple to Couple League, John Kippley and Patrick Homan; Family Of the Americas, Mercedes Arzu-Wilson; Northwest Family Services, Rose Fuller; Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction, Thomas Hilgers, M.D.; and "What Every Woman Should Know" Outreach Program, Roy and June Frakes. Members of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of NFP also attended as well as staff of the Diocesan Development Program for NFP and the director of Marriage and Family Life of the National Conference of

Catholic Bishops. From among the world of science participants heard from the Drs. Billings, Dr. Jerome Lejeune, and Dr. Josef Roetzer. Theological and philosophical presentations were offered by such well known people as: Rev. Ron Lawler, Joyce Little, Ph.D., Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, William May, Ph.D., Rev. John Powell, S.J., and Janet Smith, Ph.D. Popular speakers such as Ingrid Trobisch, "Spousal Friendship," and Scott and Kimberly Hahn, "Life Giving Love," added rest and food for thought to a heavily academic schedule.

Of special note was the obvious presence of many clergy and religious. Noteworthy was the presence of many bishops who took time from their busy schedules to be with the people. Among the bishops present were: Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss, newly installed Archdiocese of Omaha, Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan, retired Archbishop of Omaha, Archbishop J. Francis Stafford, Archdiocese of Denver, Bishop Eugene

Gerber, Diocese of Wichita, Bishop Francis E. George, Diocese of Yakima, and Bishop James T. McHugh, Diocese of Camden.

This was a conference which took a long hard look at the past twenty-five years since the promulgation of *Humanae vitae*. Consequently, presentations

reflected the positive growth of the articulation of Church teachings, especially as represented in the writings of Pope John Paul II. Lectures also confronted the pain of rejection in the last twenty-five years. Several speakers

reviewed the chaos of the original rejection of *Humanae vitae* by some Catholic theologians. Efforts were made in these presentations to understand why the rejection happened and also how it continues to cause suffering in the Church today. If a criticism were to be uttered concerning the content of this conference it could be said that it erred on the side of what was not offered. This was not a conference which primarily sought to point the way to proceed into the future (although some speakers did hint at that throughout the week). And, to be fair, one of the final presentations at the

conclusion of the conference solely looked at the challenge to go home and find better ways in which to spread the message of *Humanae vitae* and market the methods of NFP. But, at least this participant wished for more of these creative messages. In any case, this was a conference which provided a time to reflect upon the positive and the negative in the years following the encyclical. It did look at the advances which research in NFP has accomplished in this time. But mostly it held up the prophetic message of Paul VI. A message which is true and shown so brilliantly in the lives of the many spouses who strive to live its reality. ■

"Carrying individual banners representing their programs, the NFP providers looked like a sea of swaying symbols of years of dedication and hard work."

A special note of gratitude must be extended to Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Susan Hilgers and their staff for offering an oasis of time for people of like vision to come together to be refreshed as they continue to spread the Lord's message of love and life!

Thank you!

Available on Cassette

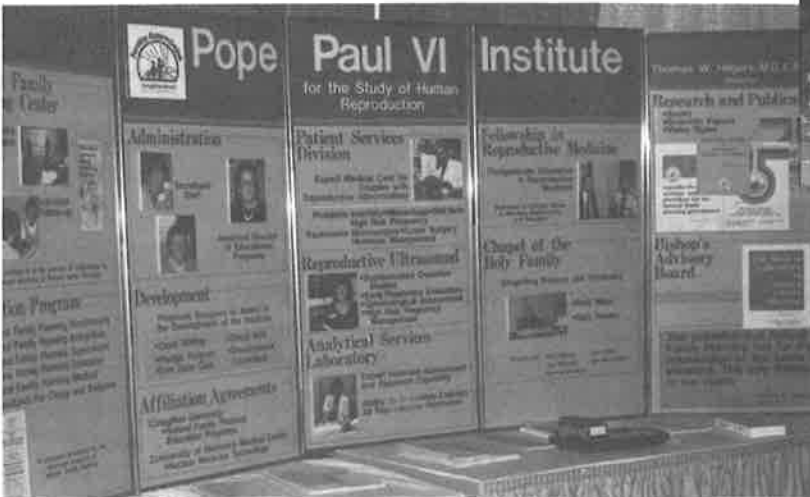
The presentations of the week long conference are all available on cassette. Some sessions are also available on video tape. Proceedings of the conference will be published in the future. Because the schedule was so extensive we were not able to reproduce it here. If you are interested in obtaining a listing of the talks, please contact: Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction, 6901 Mercy Road, Omaha, NE 68106; 402-390-6600.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMANAE VITAE



Above: Many clergy attended the entire conference.



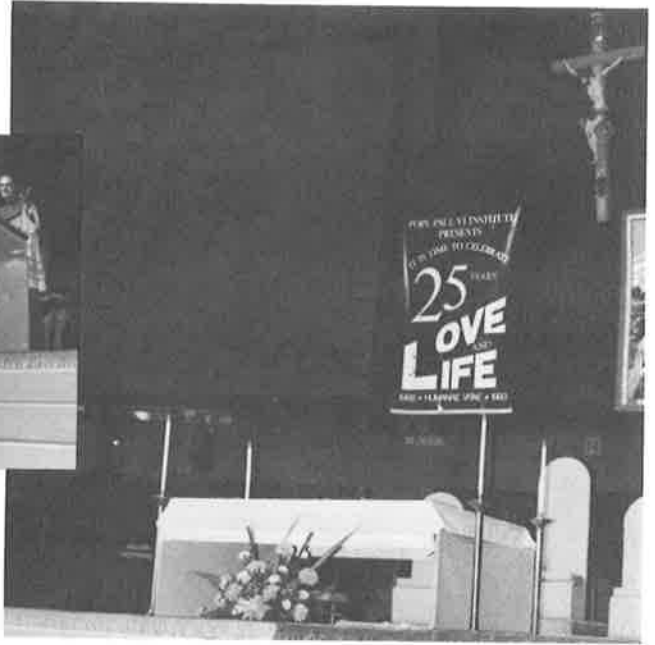
PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY



Left: Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Hülgers welcome participants.



Above: Archbishop Curtiss of Omaha, sounds a call to prayer.



Above: From California, Maureen Scagliotti (left), and Anita Lucketti (right) said they cried tears of joy throughout the beautiful ceremonies.



Right: Cardinal Lopez Trujillo (far right) descending the stairs of the platform after mass. Retired Archbishop Daniel Sheehan is Center.



Above: Dr. Jim and Kathy Statt take a moment to pose with Dr. Josef Roetzer.



Below: Participants worked hard throughout the many



Above: Dr. Tom and Sue Hilgers orchestrated the conference. From inception to realization, the Hilgers brought their dreams into reality - what a pair!

sions.



Left: Cecilia Le Chevallier and daughter traveled from New Jersey to attend the events.



Below: Mary Pat Van Epps, Diocese of Memphis, TN, with the Drs. Billings.



Above: Dr. Jerome Le Jeune.



Right: Dr. Hanna Klaus, (far right, front) BOMA, taking notes during a lecture.



Above: Beth and Charlie Balsam, Diocese of Beaumont, TX.



Above: Bishop George, Diocese of Yakima, WA, and friends.



Below from Left to Right: Barbara Gagliardi and Fr. Blasich, Wisconsin, Donna Marie Kaminsky, Ohio, and Charmaine Campanini, Kansas, enjoy lunch and laughs.

Below: Tom and Diane Daly, St. Louis, MO.



Right: Fr. Richard Hunegar, Archdiocese of Portland, OR. (Center)



"A Celebration of Conjugal Love and Parenthood,"

The Sixth Biennial Meeting of Diocesan NFP Coordinators,
Omaha, NE, July 24, 1993



Current and former members of the NFP National Advisory Board.

Diocesan NFP coordinators, their families, and staff gathered for a banquet on July 24 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Omaha. The DDP had decided to forgo their national conference and hold a banquet instead in order to facilitate diocesan NFP personnel' attendance at the Omaha international event. About 120 guests attended with the majority staying for the international conference.

The evening banquet celebrated the truths articulated in *Humanae vitae* and NFP services in the dioceses. DDP special assistant Theresa Notare, welcomed and thanked the diocesan NFP family for their many years of work and dedication. Theresa also noted the importance of their participation in the projects of the DDP, especially that of the *Annual Diocesan NFP Program Profile Report* and the *Quarterly Data Survey*. Remarking that the former project was "pivotal", Theresa indicated that the *Annual Report*

keeps NFP ministry in the "eye" of the Church because it is sent to the bishops, many of whom contact the DDP for further direction. With regard to the *Quarterly Data Survey*, Theresa reported that data consultant Bob Kambic, had recently finished summarizing the data of the last five years and had co-authored an article with Theresa on the findings. (The DDP will keep readers alert to the publishing of the information.)

DDP director Bishop James T. McHugh, provided the food for thought. In his talk, "*Humanae vitae*—The Continuing Challenge", Bishop McHugh said that this was an encyc-

lical not only concerned with human sexuality, but also with "faith, Christian life, sin, reconciliation, and growth in grace." The encyclical came at a pivotal time in history, said Bishop McHugh. It was a period marked by the end of the baby boom, the promises of the pill, and sexual intercourse outside of marriage. The immediate dissent to *Humanae vitae* led by Rev. Charles Curran (then professor of theology at Catholic University) was surprising. It was surprising especially because many of the theologians had not even read the document before signing their names to the letter of dissent. Bishop McHugh maintained that many theologians today have formed their impressions of the document by what other theologians have said about it. This is especially a problem because *Humanae vitae* does not stand alone, rather, it follows the teaching outlined by other Church documents such as *Casti connubii* (1931), and *Gaudium et spes* (1965). "There was a need



Bishop McHugh addresses guests during the banquet. (Right) Gail Quinn, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, NCCB. Theresa Notare, DDP Special Assistant is on the left.

for a hallmark of stability amidst the sexual revolution," the bishops said, "and *Humanae vitae* provided that." Bishop McHugh concluded his talk by urging the guests to intensify their efforts to expand the horizons of communicating our beliefs on human sexuality, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood.

The evening ended with prayer as Bishop McHugh asked the Lord to give all who were gathered for the banquet the courage and strength they will need to continue to communicate God's vision of human life and love to others in our world. ■

A special note of thanks to Mike Flach, editor, Arlington Catholic Herald for contributing to this article.

Celebrating their 23rd Anniversary on July 25th are Janet and Bill Betcher of South Bend, IN.



Diocesan NFP Coordinators, their families and staff enjoyed dinner and conversation during the evening celebration.

"STRIVING FOR UNITY"

During the international conference on the 25th anniversary of *Humanae vitae* a closed meeting was held for American NFP national leaders. Called by the president-elect of the American Academy of NFP Donna Vondrak, the purpose of the meeting was to find a public way in which to express the solidarity of the group in their desire to promote the Church's teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood. After much brain-storming over dinner a plan emerged. The group would start simply with a letter of rededication to the bishops stating their desire to place their expertise at the service of the Church.

Upon completion and subject to the approval of all providers, the letter will be sent to all bishops within the final days of Summer.

Meeting attenders were:

Billings Ovulation Method Association, USA, Hanna Klaus, M.D.;

Couple to Couple League, Patrick Homan and Mark Hayden;

Family Of the Americas, (although not present, Mercedes Arzu-Wilson was in contact with the AANFP and agreed to be included with the decisions of the group);

Northwest Family Services, Rose Fuller;

Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction, Diane Daly representing Thomas Hilgers, M.D.;

"What Every Woman Should Know" Outreach Program, Roy and June Frakes

Members of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of NFP: Jean Packard, Sr. Juliana Jervis, and Donna Vondrak.

Diocesan Development Program for NFP of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Theresa Notare. ■



From left to right: Roy and June Frakes, Donna Vondrak, Mark Hayden, and Theresa Notare.



From left to right: Rose Fuller, Don Kramer, Jean Packard, Diane Daly, Hanna Klaus, and Pat Homan.

A Gathering of Chastity Educators

On July 27, 1993, an informal gathering of people involved in chastity education was held during the international conference on *Humanae vitae*. In attendance were:

Lisa Everett, director, Family Life Ministry, diocese of South Bend, IN;
Rose Fuller, executive director, Northwest Family services, Portland, OR;
Cathy Hansen, FACTS educator, Northwest Family Services, Portland, OR;
Jeff and Alice Heinzen, NFP coordinators, diocese of LaCrosse, WI;
Rev. Richard Hogan, pastor, author, member of NFP Advisory Board, diocese of St. Paul, MN;
Elizabeth and Canisius Johnson, children of the late Barbara Johnson, former NFP Coordinator, diocese of LaCrosse, WI;
Theresa Kaye, author of the "Save Sex" program;
Janet Kistler, NFP coordinator, diocese of Phoenix, AZ;
Rev. Ronald Lawler, catechetical consultant, diocese of Pittsburgh, and director of Education for the Pope John XXIII Center, MA;
Peggy Markell, chastity educator, diocese of Ogdensburg, N.Y.;
Lucy Marlatt for Sally Schwerdt, NFP Dept. of St. Agnes Hospital, publishers of "Teen Crossroads, Pathways to Decisions";
Rev. John McGoey, Family Life author and consultant;
Janet McLaughlin, NFP coordinator, diocese of Baker, OR;
Theresa Notare, special assistant, DDP/NFP;
Mary Ryan, youth minister, diocese of Phoenix, AZ;
Pat Strimpfel, representative of DEPPA (Dr. Ruth Taylor and Ann Nerbun);
Beth Wells, Youth Coordinator, Northwest Family Services, Portland, OR.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather people involved in chastity education to meet and share ideas as well as to determine the interest level in informally networking. The process involved each person relating their experience in chastity education. Many insights and activities were shared. For example, Rose Fuller offered a brief sketch of Northwest Family Services' program, *Family Accountability Communicating Teen Sexuality (FACTS)*. Highlighting the strong research component (Stan Weed, Ph.D., primary researcher), Rose noted the importance of developing programs based upon what is working in chastity education. Fr. Lawler said that there is a teacher preparation program (of 8 hours) offered in the diocese of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh has also developed guidelines for Catholic sexuality education. Lessons for chastity education have been developed for grades 5-8 with 4 or 5 units focusing on the virtue of chastity. Lisa Everett noted that she and her husband have developed a K-8 syllabus for remote preparation for marriage based on *Familiaris consortio*. Bringing a different perspective to the discussion, Elizabeth and Canisius Johnson spoke about their experience as young adults and their sense that their peers do not hear enough about chastity. Probably

the most significant idea discussed during the meeting was that of the need for a national Catholic chastity curriculum for use in the dioceses. Fr. Richard Hogan surfaced this idea. Commenting on this topic, Fr. Hogan recommended a collaborative effort to develop such a text, rather than have people duplicating efforts around the country.

A discussion followed concerning the details of the curriculum project. Questions were asked: "Should the curriculum include a teacher training text, or a manual (similar to a "recipe book" approach)?" "Where would the funding come from?" "How would people be chosen to write the text?" "To what extent should parents be included, or should a text be developed separately for parents?" Although no questions were answered, it was agreed that a proposal for a national Catholic chastity curriculum be drafted—details could be attended to in a future meeting. There was also a proposal to pool resources, market broadly, and train locally. Fr. Hogan and Rose Fuller agreed to organize the project.

Before ending the meeting, Rose Fuller mentioned the names of people who wanted to be informed of the groups resolutions, and possibly get involved in the activities of the group. (These people could not make the meeting.) They are:

Mary Beth Bonacci
Donna Dausman
Pat Driscoll
Jo Ann Gasper
Patrick Homan
Molly Kelly
Hanna Klaus, M.D.
Coleen K. Mast
Onalee McGraw
Mary Pat Van Epps
Phyllis White, and
Margaret Whitehead.

If you are interested in the project, contact: Rev. Richard Hogan, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1801 LaCrosse Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119-4801; 612-735-3707; or Rose Fuller, Northwest Family Services, 4805 N.E. Glisan St., Portland, OR 97213; 503-230-6377. ■

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

"Hello from Harrisburg, PA!"

Stella Kitchen

Hello from Harrisburg, PA! In January, 1992, I became diocesan NFP coordinator after being a volunteer teacher for eleven years. My first task was to seek DDP Endorsement of our program, which has been in existence for more than fourteen years. I set about this process with much fear and trepidation, and my usual "Bull in a China-shop" approach. I found I had quite a few copies of the documents necessary to apply, and that throwing them on the office floor and playing a type of demented NFP coordinator's game worked well! I was set to go, the fun was about to begin.

In checking off what was required of us, I discovered that the game was a bit more complicated than I expected. Sounds from my office went something like this: "Got it!" "Don't got it!" "Got it!" "Do it." "Don't do it (why should we do it?)." Hey, wait a minute; it was not all fun! Soul searching, re-evaluating and changes had to be made, all worthwhile, but nevertheless a little un-nerving. All this, AND being back in the work force, AND hitting forty!

Some things are even too much for me, but behind every good woman there is a wonderful man! Mine was behind me all the way saying, "Go for it!"; and making encouraging noises, as well as staying up late many evenings while discussing all aspects of the program. Church teaching became clearer, and how we must promote it took on a new priority. NFP was more than a reliable Church-approved "method of family planning"; it was part of a much bigger picture that needed to be clarified, and I wanted everyone else to come out of the fog and see what I now saw as "crystal-clear." Actually, putting the package together was quite easy after that. I encourage those of you who have not already done so to get to it!

In April 1993 we celebrated our endorsement with cake and punch. Work goes on with up-dating our materials, and for this task I have enlisted the help of our two hospital coordinators, Aleta Lazur and Mary Theresa Squierdo. Having worked with both ladies, I was delighted that we were all able to attend the *Humanae vitae* Conference in Omaha. We left Harrisburg as good friends but came back as buddies (does that make sense?) What I am trying to say is we had time to discuss many things and our friendship grew. We even brought matching T-shirts for our arrival home (our families didn't seem to notice, but it amused us!)

Our trip was well worth the effort we all made to prepare our families to be motherless for a week. Apart from the rapport we developed, we made many new friends: our nearest neighbor, Suzie Lee from the diocese of Allentown, has gone from friend to special friend, a person I can call on who knows where I am coming from. The same too with Donna Marie Kaminski from the diocese of Cleveland. We discussed the question of certification of teachers who are enrolled in national provider programs, that have yet to either seek or obtain DDP Approval. I was also able to resolve my newest challenge to find a way to include in our program Dr. and Mrs. Robert Conkling, who reside in the diocese of Harrisburg and would like to provide NFP services under the auspices of the Creighton model. I was able to meet with the Conklings at the conference and work out the foundations for a cooperative arrangement agreeable to all parties and yet still in compliance with the *National Standards*

which I have to uphold. Integration of other models into our diocesan family can only reap greater benefits for all!

Highlights of the conference for me! Dr. Roetzer, whose delightful sense of humor and genuine desire to share knowledge came through clearly; the love and respect for one another shown by Drs. John and Lyn Billings reminded me that NFP is truly good for a marriage; Dr. Hilger's approach to the technology of NFP will hopefully one day rid the medical profession of "diagnostically destitute" physicians who prescribe birth control pills for a wide range of symptoms, rather than looking for the real cause of a woman's problem. The attendance of so many bishops and priests gave me great hope that NFP

will soon be afforded its rightful position of prominence in the ministries of the Church: I felt this was my Church talking to me and with me.

Looking ahead, I anticipate the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae vitae*. It will be a great event, because the



Pictured are (from left to right): Bishop Dattilo, NFP teachers, Ellen and Larry Kramer and family, and diocesan NFP coordinator, Stella Kitchen.

world is ripe for a change in this area, and we are on the cutting edge! My prayer is that, just as the requirements for DDP Endorsement finally made sense to me, so will the teachings of Christ's Church make sense to all those who are prepared to listen and change. God Bless!

Stella Kitchen and her husband Roger were born in England and for the last thirteen years have made the U.S. their home. Roger is an engineer who also volunteers as a NFP teacher. Stella's responsibilities in the diocese also include coordination of the marriage preparation programs. Stella and Roger have four children. ■

NEWS BRIEFS



DDP Announcements

Congratulations to the Archdiocese of Boston, Eleanor TabEEK, NFP coordinator, and the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL, Sharon Iler, NFP coordinator, for receiving Endorsement for their diocesan NFP programs according to the *National Standards*.

Congratulations are also extended to Billings Ovulation Method Association of America and director, Hanna Klaus, M.D. for achieving Approval for NFP teacher training programs according to the *National Standards*.

"We are thankful for your willingness to implement the *National Standards* in your programs and we are grateful for your dedication and hard work!"



Upcoming Events

October 16-24, 1993—Creighton Model NFP Education Programs will begin with "Education Phase I," a total immersion course. *Contact: Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction, 6901 Mercy Road, Omaha, NE 68106-2604; 402-390-6600.*

December 2-4, 1993—The National Coalition of NFP will hold their Sixth National and International Symposium on NFP in Washington, D.C. *Contact: Diane Vogelsang, LA Regional Family Planning Council, Inc., 3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90010; FAX, 213-368-4111; 213-386-5614.*



Announcements

The Diocese of Harrisburg, PA reported a small victory during the week of August 9, 1993. It seems that a local radio talk show (WHP58) was discussing the Holy Father's visit to the United States. While speaking about the Pope several topics concerning Catholics came up with that of "birth control" taking centerstage. The talk show host expressed ignorance over the difference between rhythm and artificial methods and asked his listening audience if a Catholic would clear up the matter. A Catholic man then called in and clarified our theology but still did not clarify rhythm. Then, a CCL teacher, Mrs. Chris Remmert, called in and clarified NFP vs. rhythm. Because they were running out of time Chris was invited back. On August 11, Chris and husband Pete, gave an excellent description of STM and offered a rousing plug for NFP (all methods), CCL, and the diocesan NFP program!

After they were finished with their talk, calls were taken and two strong NFP supporters reinforced the Remmerts. Next, diocesan NFP coordinators, Stella Kitchen, called and thanked the radio host for his openness and good will. He in turn invited Stella to speak on the show on August 12. Stella reported that after she spoke on the radio and within minutes of putting down the phone from the interview, her NFP line rang with a call from a man in Maryland who wanted his future bride to get "off the pill and try this healthy new method."

Stella concluded that "when they give us a chance to speak the truth about the Church and the facts about NFP, we are heard!"

The International Federation for Family Life Promotion has issued a call for scientific papers on NFP related research for their VI International Congress to be held in Lublin, Poland, September 16-24, 1994. **Note: Abstracts are due Sept. 30, 1993.** *Contact: Suzanne Parenteau-Carreau, MD, 6239, Deacon Road, Montreal, OC, Canada H3S 2P6; FAX 514-872-0024; Serena, 514-273-7531.*

International Association of Physicians for NFP (IAPNFP) is an interdenominational organization which recognizes the inviolability of human life from the moment of conception. Members of the IAPNFP pledge to advocate only the methods of NFP for the regulation of human fertility. They reject all measures which serve or support contraception, abortion, and artificial and technically assisted reproduction. Membership is open to physicians only. *Contact: Dr. Urs Kayser, IAPNFP, Moosmattstr. 15, CH-6045 Meggen, Switzerland.*

It is with sadness that we report the passing on July 3, of Barbara Johnson, NFP coordinator, diocese of LaCrosse, WI. Rose Fuller, a long time friend wrote that before Barbara died, Rose told Barbara that she "had work for her to do on the other side." Even in the end Barbara's good humor and faith came through, she responded, "No problem, I have a lot to talk about."

It seems we now have another "NFP friend" who has joined the Communion of Saints. Please pray for the repose of Barbara's soul and the comfort of her family.



Materials

The **Christophers** have a brochure on teen chastity which was written "for young people . . . from young people." The brochure is written in an upbeat fashion and accents the importance of speaking with parents, deciding upon dating behavior before the date, and the consequences of poor decisions. Single copies are free of charge. *Contact: The Christophers, 12 East 48th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10017.*

Diocese of Memphis has for purchase a variety of bookmarks on themes related to Marriage and Family Life, Pro-Life, NFP, and Chastity. In addition, stickers, T-shirts, and tote bags sporting the slogan "Respect—I'm Worth It!" (with two hearts and a cross

on front) are also available. *Contact: Mary Pat Van Epps, NFP Center, St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Ave., Memphis, TN 38119; 901-765-1757.*

Diocese of Peoria, through the Office of Family Life, has produced two publications on Family Life. The first, "Eight Journeys to a Common Dream" is about their most recent Lay Ministry Leadership Program class in family life specialization. The second, "We Are Family," is a collection of family prayers and stories of faith by the families of the diocese. *Contact: Maureen McNamara, Office of Family Life, Diocese of Peoria, 412 N.E. Madison Ave., Peoria, IL 61603-3720; 309-671-1580.*

Vida Humana Internacional has some NFP materials in Spanish. The DDP was able to review: "Para una Vivencia Cristiana de la Sexualidad";

"Planificacion Familiar Natural: Un Testimonio"; and "La Planificacion Natural De La Familia Beneficia A Los Matrimonios". Each of these materials is well written and cast in a loving tone. If you are interested in any of their other materials, the DDP would recommend your obtaining samples first, some of the materials may not be appropriate for your NFP programs. *Contact: Vida Humana Internacional, 4345 S.W. 72 Ave., Suite E, Miami, FL 33155; 305-662-1499.*

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Diocesan Development Program
for Natural Family Planning
A program of the NCCB Committee
for Pro-Life Activities

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The **Natural Family Planning Diocesan Activity Report** is published quarterly. Its purpose is to serve the Roman Catholic diocesan NFP programs of the United States through offering: national and international news of NFP activity; articles on significant Church teachings, NFP methodology and related topics; and by providing a forum for sharing strategies in program development. Contributions are welcomed. All articles may be reproduced unless otherwise noted. For more information contact the editor. *The activities of the DDP for NFP are generously funded by a grant from the Knights of Columbus*

HUMANAE VITAE Celebrations

September 18, 1993—The Diocese of Worcester, MA and Assumption College will host an all day academic conference celebrating the **Twenty-fifth Anniversary of *Humanae vitae*** and **The Fifteenth Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's Installation**. Among the speakers will be: Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers, M.D.; Dr. Janet Smith, Ph.D.; and Mr. Virgil Dechant, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. *Contact: Rev. Stephen F. Torracco, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01615; or call Office for Academic Affairs, 508-752-5615, x312.*

October 17, 1993—The Diocese of Erie, PA will hold a conference in honor of the 25th anniversary of *Humanae vitae* at St. Mark Catholic Center. Entitled "Celebrating Life—Consecrating Love," the event is cosponsored by the Diocesan NFP and Respect Life Offices. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Janet Smith. Workshops on Pro-Life, NFP, and Chastity education will be offered. The closing Mass will be the diocesan Respect Life Mass for October. *Contact: Barbara and Ed Berkett, P.O. Box 10397, Erie, PA 16514-0397; 814-824-1259.*

November 20, 1993—The Archdiocese of Newark, N.J. will commemorate the anniversary of *Humanae vitae* with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick followed by a lecture given by Rev. Benedict Groeschel. *Contact: Karen Doyle, NFP, Holy Name Hospital, 718 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, N.J. 07666; 201-833-3121.*