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

DATE: [insert date here]

**NFP Awareness Week Begins July 22nd, 2018**

WASHINGTON, DC – “Generations of Love: *Humanae vitae* (1968-2018)” is the theme of this year’s Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, a national educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God’s design for married love and the gift of life and to raise awareness of Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods. “NFP,” as the U.S. bishops have written, is supportive of Catholic beliefs about married love because it “respects the God-given power to love a new human life into being” (see, U.S. Bishops, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*).

NFP Week 2018 will highlight the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of Blessed Pope Paul VI’s encyclical, *Humanae vitae*, in which he articulates the Church’s teaching about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. This year’s theme, “Generations of Love” joyfully commemorates the 50th anniversary and legacy of *Humanae vitae*, inviting a reflection on how openness to God’s plan for married love and responsible parenthood creates the opportunity for great fruit in the lives of married couples and their families, a legacy of love for generations to come.

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (July 22nd – 28th, 2018) annually highlight the anniversary of *Humanae vitae* (July 25) as well as the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

Resources (e.g., the 2018 NFP Week poster, web banners, prayers, homily notes, bulletin inserts, etc.) and ideas for celebrating and promoting NFP Awareness Week in your area can be found on the USCCB’s NFP Program website: <http://www.usccb.org/nfp/awareness-week/index.cfm>. For more information, contact [nfp@usccb.org](mailto:nfp@usccb.org).