

# Diocesan Activity Report - NFP

Diocesan Development Program

511 K St. N.W. Suite 333, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 737-1339

November, 1982

● At the November General Meeting of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, Terence Cardinal Cooke reported on the significant growth and expansion of NFP diocesan programs throughout the past year. Cardinal Cooke spoke about the positive outcomes of the hospital survey conducted by the Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning and the Catholic Health Association. A total of 633 Catholic hospitals were surveyed regarding the availability of NFP services within their hospitals. 503 hospitals responded and 177 indicated that there was an NFP service in their agency. A good number of the hospitals indicated an interest in expanding and developing NFP service programs. In addition, many hospitals expressed an interest in working with the NFP diocesan coordinator and utilizing existing NFP experts in the diocese. A full report of the survey will be published in Hospital Progress in early 1983.

● The Diocesan Development Program for Natural Family Planning reports that:

- diocesan NFP coordinators were appointed in 147 dioceses.
- 88 dioceses have placed NFP coordinators under family life offices.
- 33 dioceses have placed NFP coordinators under Catholic Charities and/or social service offices.
- 26 dioceses have placed NFP coordinators under a variety of departments including NFP, Pro-Life and other designations.

● WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING. Enclosed is a pamphlet recommended for use in promoting NFP. The pamphlet is couple-oriented and illustrates a good overview of the positive benefits and approaches used in current NFP. This pamphlet would be useful as a handout in physicians offices, hospital service programs and Pre-Cana or engaged encounter programs. This pamphlet is available from: Channing L. Bete Co., Inc. 200 State Road, South Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373.

● Rev. Msgr. James T. McHugh, presented a paper on the Family and Transmission of Life at the National Institute for the Family held in Washington, D.C. in September.

● Mary Catherine Martin, Ph.D., presented the basic goals and approaches of the Diocesan NFP Plan, in a series of workshops to approximately 250 Family Life Directors and personnel at the national meeting of Family Life Ministers, Inc. held in San Diego, California in September.

● Natural Family Planning was the topic for a special seminar at a series of Conferences on Medical-Moral Ethics for hospital and health care personnel conducted by the Pope John XXIII Institute. Rev. Donald McCarthy discussed the ethical framework and the spiritual enrichment of NFP in conjugal life. Dr. Mary Martin, Mrs. Dianne Daly and Mrs. Terry Maes were NFP consultants and described current NFP methods, issues and program development needs.



● Rev. Msgr. James T. McHugh, spoke to the national and international participants at the Human Life International meeting, which was held in Arlington, Virginia in November. The NFP diocesan development was discussed within the context of Familiaris Consortio. Rev. Msgr. McHugh emphasized the focus of the office in promoting the efforts of the Church to expand the knowledge of the methods to couples in an effort to help them learn and use NFP in their married lives.

● The NFP diocesan development coordinators from both the Canadian and South African Bishops Conference have shared their evolving plans for coordinating and expanding NFP diocesan efforts. Mr. Gerard E. Brunelle, Executive Director, Family Action, Ottawa, Canada, has developed an organizational plan for the regions in Canada. Mr. Brunelle's organization is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Miss Pat McGregor, has recently been appointed to the Bishops Conference of South Africa to coordinate and expand NFP services in the dioceses. In addition she will be concerned with the support of Pro-Life issues and further development of the Catholic Nurses Guild in South Africa.

● CLEVELAND, OHIO. The diocese of Cleveland has completed the first phase of formal course work of the NFP teacher Training Institute. Twenty-nine instructors, the majority of whom are couples have satisfactorily completed the 48 hour program conducted over the last two months. The instructor trainees were commissioned by the diocese to begin supervised teaching of couples in their sponsoring parishes. Regional resources centers are being established throughout the diocese in which the trainer couples, pastors, and medical support persons will meet with the new instructor couples to insure appropriate instruction and training during the next six months. Monitor couples will assume responsibility for the new instructors as they begin to teach NFP within the parishes.

The closing celebration was a paraliturgical service during which Rev. Anthony Rebol, Director of the Department of Marriage and Family, emphasized the importance of the NFP apostolate witness of trained couples sharing their knowledge and practice of NFP with other couples. Fr. Rebol spoke of the long history of diocesan NFP services and stressed the great joy of continuing the NFP ministry in a more coordinated diocesan effort. The diocese will support the NFP network, encouraging pastoral emphases and valuing the service of the teaching couples as a great spiritual resource to the work of the Church with the family. Mary Ann Stanton is the NFP program coordinator and continues to provide assurances for expanding NFP services in a competent and accountable manner. The diocese of Cleveland is also developing a full approach for teaching fertility awareness and sex education for youth in the diocesan high schools. Dr. Anthony Iezzi is in charge of this program which complements the NFP development work.

● CHEYENNE, WYOMING. The diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming formalized its plans for a full diocesan instructor training program. The overall diocesan goals include providing an NFP instructor couple to serve within each parish of the diocese and to interact with other ministries within the parish council. The diocese is attempting to integrate the expertise of instructors from various method approaches and will emphasize the importance of NFP in conjugal life.