

Diocesan Activity Report - NFP

Diocesan Development Program

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PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS' NFP WORKSHOP

More than 100 teachers from Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia took part in a special NFP workshop at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on November 11, 1983. The workshop was sponsored by the Family Life Bureau, with the cooperation of the Office for Catholic Education. Every high school in the Archdiocese was represented at the full day program which focused on a curriculum guide on chastity, fertility awareness and natural family planning for use in the biology and marriage courses.

The featured speaker was Sr. Mary Sally Huston, SND, a religion and chemical teacher from Regina High School in South Euclid, Ohio. During the past two years Sr. Mary Sally has served on a special commission of the office of Marriage and Family Concerns of the Diocese of Cleveland, which has now published a curriculum on chastity, fertility awareness and natural family planning that is presently used in the high schools of the Cleveland diocese.

According to a survey taken at the workshop, curriculum materials ranked high as needed support for the Philadelphia teachers. More than half responding to the survey now teach fertility awareness and/or natural family planning in their human reproduction or marriage courses, and were seeking support in their efforts. Those not currently including such information in their courses indicated a desire to implement the material as a result of the workshop. The Cleveland curriculum, which contains reproducible teaching aids, was distributed at the workshop to every archdiocesan high school.

Sr. Mary Sally also presented information on audio visual materials which are available on loan from Cleveland. The series includes video tapes of actual teaching sessions using the curriculum (employed also in Cleveland's high school CCD programs) and interviews with married couples explaining what positive dimensions natural family planning have brought to their marriage relationships. Philadelphia's archdiocesan natural family planning program also presented their recently produced slide/cassette presentation, "Nature's Design", at the workshop. Although developed specifically for marriage preparation programs, the teachers at the workshop gave it an overwhelmingly positive rating.

Msgr. Charles McGroarty, Philadelphia Family Life Director, was extremely pleased with the turnout of teachers, especially since it was a school holiday. Many indicated that they attended because of their convictions regarding the importance of the subject matter and their unpreparedness to handle such programs. The teachers also expressed willingness to take part in a follow-up evaluation session at the end of the year.

FIDAF THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, HONG KONG

The International Federation for Family Life Promotion (FIDAF) held its Third International Congress in Hong Kong, November 20 to November 29, 1983.

Approximately 425 persons from 74 countries attended the meeting. There were 50 countries with voting delegates. The membership elected Dr. William A. Urichhio (U.S.A.) for his second term of President, Dr. Ramon C. Ruiz (Hong Kong) as Vice President and Dr. Armando Cifuentes as Secretary. Dr. Claude A. Lanctot is Executive Director of the organization.

Mother Teresa gave the keynote address, emphasizing the obligation to build respect for human life at every stage and in every situation, and the importance of NFP for married couples. Bishop J. F. Cox Huneeus of the Pontifical Council for the Family attended the meeting and carried a message from the Vatican Secretariat of State on behalf of Pope John Paul II.

The scientific program focused on two themes - scientific developments in NFP and family life education. Scientific development was essentially an update of the current scientific information and the family life aspect provided information on a wide variety of educational programs in different parts of the world.

A second major aspect of the Congress had to do with organizational development. Following earlier Congresses in Cali (1977) and Dublin (1980), there were considerably more national programs represented and also significant development within the nations. Zonal meetings took place at Hong Kong to give participants more of a voice in FIDAF and also more opportunity to explore cooperative efforts for the future.

The papers will be published in a monograph, hopefully in summer, 1984. Msgr. Charles McGroarty represented the Diocesan Development Program and delivered two papers in its behalf.

CHARTER OF THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY

On November 24, 1983, the Holy See issued a Charter of the Rights of the Family, addressed to governments, international organizations and to families themselves. The idea of such a Charter emerged during the 1980 Synod of Bishops and Pope John Paul II called attention to it in Familiaris Consortio.

The Charter of the Rights of the Family focuses on the family as a community of persons with rights and duties proper to itself as the fundamental unit in society. It is concerned primarily with the well-being of the family and with enabling the family to meet the needs of its individual members at every stage of life and in every circumstance. It recognizes the mutual concerns of the family and society and the complementary responsibilities of each. It proposes rights natural to the family that should be universally protected and advanced by laws and social policies.

The Charter is addressed primarily to families, to create a stronger awareness of the family's role in society and to motivate families to work together in behalf of their rights and in fulfillment of their responsibilities. It is consistent with Pope John Paul II's urging that families become politically active and be "the first to take steps to see that the laws and institution of the State not only do not offend but support and positively defend the rights and duties of the family." (Familiaris Consortio, 44) It is also addressed to governments and international organizations to help guide their efforts to support and assist families. It is intended not as a comprehensive list of rights or prerogatives, but as a statement of fundamental principles. These principles should be studied, expanded and applied to the changing conditions of time, culture and social development in which families today and in the future exist and carry out their mission.

Copies of the Charter have been sent to all Diocesan NFP Coordinators, and additional copies are available from the Diocesan Development Program for NFP in Washington, D.C.

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE IN HUMAN LOVE - OUTLINES FOR SEX EDUCATION

This document was issued by the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education on December 1, 1983, to describe clearly the mutual responsibilities of parents, Catholic schools and educational agencies and parishes in the matter of education in human sexuality. In preparation for some years, the document was circulated to Bishops' Conferences and to educators. The document emphasizes that parents not only have the right but also the serious duty of providing sex education for their children. The school and the parish can and should support and cooperate with parents in the fulfillment of this responsibility.

Substantively, the document reflects the church's teaching that sexuality is one aspect of human development and must be integrated with other dimensions of human personality. It also gives prominence to marriage as the appropriate place for sexual love. In dealing with special problems, the Outlines reaffirm Catholic moral teaching on premarital intercourse, masturbation and homosexuality.

In regard to educational programs, the document spells out the roles of pastors and teachers and makes specific reference to the teaching of NFP in pre-Cana programs in order to enable spouses "to live their sexuality and to carry out their responsibilities in accord with God's plan."

The Document addresses the issue in terms of the Catholic school, and given the controversies that have taken place, it provides an opportunity to move from debate to dialogue, and ultimately to cooperation and unity of efforts.

Educational Guidance in Human Love has been published in booklet form by the Daughters of St. Paul at \$.75 per copy. It is available at any of their bookstores, or by mail.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Human Life and Natural Family Planning Foundation books, charts, tests and other materials are available from Larry Kane, NFP materials, P.O. Box 10419, Alexandria, Virginia 22310, or by phone at (703) 836-3377. Although the Foundation has closed the office and ceased day-to-day operations, all its printed materials are available through Larry Kane.

A Theological Perspective on Natural Family Planning, Msgr. James T. McHugh, published by the Diocesan Development Program for NFP is available from the Washington, D.C. office at \$2.95 per copy.

Address of Terence Cardinal Cooke to National Meeting of Diocesan NFP Coordinators, July, 1983, Washington, D.C. Copies available from Diocesan Development Program for NFP, Washington, D.C., at cost of postage. Limited supply available.

Address of Pope John Paul II to a Group of American Bishops on their Ad Limina Visit, September 24, 1983. Copies available from Diocesan Development Program for NFP, Washington, D.C., at cost of postage.

Charter of the Rights of the Family. This recent document of the Holy See is available in pamphlet form from the Diocesan Development Program for NFP, Washington, D.C., at cost of postage.

Educational Guidance in Human Love - Outlines for Sex Education, recently issued by the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, Vatican City. Copies available in booklet form from Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Ave., Jamaica Plain, Boston, Massachusetts 02130, at \$.75 per copy plus postage, or at any of the Daughters of St. Paul bookstores.

The Person, The Family and Fundamental Choices, Msgr. James T. McHugh. A six page reprint from the 1983 Respect Life Program Manual on NFP. Available from the Diocesan Development Program for NFP, Washington, D.C., at cost of postage.

LAST MINUTE NOTE

Six copies of the Charter on the Rights of the Family are being mailed to every Diocesan NFP Coordinator.