

Diocesan Activity Report-NFP

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Most Rev. James T. McHugh, Director; Rev. Philip D. Kraus, S.J., Assistant Director
Theresa Notare, Editor, Newsletter

DDP NATIONWIDE SURVEY; OCTOBER 19, 1988--MEETING OF PARTICIPATING DIOCESES

Bishop James T. McHugh opened with a prayer and addressed the group. In outlining the proceedings of the day, Bishop McHugh noted the great importance in correct interpretation of the data, as well as its publicity.

Dr. Grace Boys conducted the major part of the meeting, walking the participants through the data. Her instruction was prefaced with the following basic information:

- 1) In terms of program development, the data would prove useful for the next 5 years.
- 2) This is a first study of its kind; a "behavioral study" which involves the couple, not just the woman.
- 3) Beware of limitations in the Study (this is true of any study): e.g., ST clients often checked items marked "OM"--they did not differentiate themselves with regard to specific method.
- 4) When reading the data, one must look at the entire picture, noting the interrelation of various items.
- 5) The methodology used in the study is sound.

Understanding how to read the computer sheets and interpret the data was the goal of the meeting. A workshop-like atmosphere was

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Pope's Address to Western Bishops

The following are excerpts from John Paul II's address to the Bishops from Ohio and Michigan on the occasion of their "ad limina" visits:

Since "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8), and since humanity is created in the image and likeness of God, there is inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the "capacity and responsibility of love" (FC #11). . . . Love in its deepest and richest meaning involves self-giving. Christ, the Son of God and perfect image of the Father (cf. Col 1:15), gave Himself totally in the very fullness of love through His redeeming sacrifice. In the case of husband and wife, genuine love is expressed in the gift of self to each other, which includes giving the power to beget life.

In the words of *Gaudium et Spes*: "This love is an eminently human one since it is directed from one person to another through an affection of the will. It involves the good of the whole person. . . . Such love, merging the human with the divine, leads the spouses to a free and mutual gift of themselves" (# 49).

As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the teaching of...*Humanae Vitae*...we see ever more clearly today how relevant and positive it is. In this anniversary year I wish to make special mention of our pastoral concerns for marriage and family life.

I note with interest and gratitude the statement of the NCCB's

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was the means by which this was accomplished. Each diocesan coordinator had a computer print-out of his/her program and carefully read through it with Dr. Boys. Questions which the data addressed ranged from, "How many perceived pregnancies occurred in my program?" to "What is the economic bracket of the majority of my students?". It was discovered that one question often informed another question. From this insight the participants thought it would prove helpful to articulate additional questions which the data in hand might answer; they are:

- 1) Can we compare "satisfaction of method" with "unintended pregnancy"?
- 2) Why have clients discontinued NFP?
- 3) What does it mean to not chart and use a method?
- 4) Can we compare "charting frequency" with unintended pregnancies?
- 5) Can we compare the "years married" and the "happiness" scale?
- 6) Can we compare the "years married" and the "aims and goals" of the husband and wife?
- 7) Does "NFP created difficulty" correlate with "number of years NFP used"?
- 8) How are "continuation rates" related to other factors, such as marital satisfaction, pregnancy, etc.?

Final suggestions focused upon the publicity of the Survey. The participants noted the need for practical ideas on how to market the findings and determine who should be targeted; as well as the need for providing a simple outline on pastoral implementation for diocesan NFP coordinators and a vehicle to move the data to the person in "the grocery line". The final report should be available in Spring, '89.

DDP OCTOBER '88 CERTIFICATION MEETING

The National Certification Committee met on Oct. 20 & 21 in Newark, N.J. to continue the work on National NFP Standards. The meeting consisted of plenary as well as sub-committee working sessions.

All sub-committee work was reviewed, integrated and approved in the plenary gatherings. The following timetable was sketched for the upcoming year:

December, '88-----Preliminary editing
of Standards

February 1, 1989--Final editing
of Standards

March 1, 1989-----Test editing

April 1-2, 1989---Plenary meeting

July 5-7, 1989----National Diocesan
Coordinators'
Conference, Seton
Hall, N.J.

MCHUGH AND BOYS ON CABLE

Bishop James T. McHugh and Sr. Grace Boys, Ph.D appeared live on Catholic Telecommunications Network of America (CTNA) on Oct. 20, 1989. They were interviewed on the preliminary results of the **Nationwide Survey**.

CTNA was founded by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 1981 as a way of connecting the nation's Catholics. The network provides an array of electronic services. The Oct. 20th broadcast was available to satellite dish owners and cable subscribers in the nation's dioceses.

The telecast's primary goal was to provide visibility for the preliminary results of the **Survey**. Responses to this publicity, and other efforts have already resulted in articles in various diocesan papers and the secular press. Of special note is an article by Dr. Michael J. Zinaman, "Why you should know about NFP", in **Contemporary Ob/Gyn**, Special 2 Issue, "Fertility", 1988.

**"NFP IN THE 80'S"; KEYNOTE
ADDRESS, AANFP--JUNE, 1988**

DDP's Fr. Phil Kraus delivered the keynote address at the American Academy of NFP in Albuquerque, N.M. His topic was "NFP in the 80's: The integration of Faith and Science". The following is a summary of the talk.

The meaning and practice of NFP is grounded in the nature of human sexuality. Among contemporary concerns in the 80's, human sexuality looms large, both scientifically and spiritually:

a) scientifically, not only because of the implications for the human species of sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS, but also because of recent advances in reproductive technologies;

b) spiritually, on the level of faith, because sexuality lies at the heart of who we are as persons.

Historically, science and faith have often been viewed as being antagonistic and competitive. With regard to human sexuality in the 80's, this polarization persists.

More than anything else on the horizon, NFP carries the potential (already demonstrated in fact) for integrating the truths of faith and science in a manner consistent with the noblest aspirations of the human heart and the fundamental dignity of the human person (from conception through natural death), precisely because it maintains the fundamental integrity (procreative and unitive) of the human sexual act within the context of a committed, lifelong, faithful love.

Therein lies the wisdom and the truth of married love as it is promoted and practiced in NFP.

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Committee for Pro-Life Activities commemorating the Encyclical. As we all know, marriage is much more than a social institution; it is truly, ... "the wise institution of the Creator to realize in humanity His design of love" (HV, #8). The Church's teaching on marriage is fundamental to understanding the many dimensions of the marriage relationship, especially the sexual dimension.... It allows spouses to express in a specific way that interpersonal love that binds them together in a permanent, faithful and exclusive covenant, and that leads them to parenthood.

Marriage is a unique type of relationship, and all the actions whereby spouses manifest their love for each other are part of God's plan and signs of his love. In the sexual act the married couple have the opportunity to grow in grace, in intimacy, in generosity and in their willingness to cooperate with God in bringing into being new human persons.

We are called to provide engaged and married couples with the fullness of the Church's teaching on human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. We must emphasize the sanctity of human life as a precious gift from God that needs to be protected and fostered, while making greater and more systematic efforts to offer instruction in the natural methods of family planning.

NFP enables couples to understand God's design for sex and invites them to dialogue, mutual respect, shared responsibility and self-control (cf. FC, #32). Our people need to have prayerful confidence that God will bless and sustain them in their efforts to lead lives of holiness and to be witnesses to his love in the modern world.

NEWS BRIEFS

DDP FOR NFP

Special announcements

The office of the DDP for NFP will be moving to a new location as of Jan., 1989. Our new address will be 100 Linden Ave., Irvington, N.J. 07111. The new phone number will be 201-596-4207

Please keep an eye out for our upcoming **National NFP Diocesan Coordinator Conference** in July, 1989. Dates will be Wed. the 5th (registration beginning at 4:00pm), through Fri. the 7th.

DDP has available for sale copies of the Australian Teacher Training Manual. Total: \$55.00 (includes postage).

Copies of the **OM & Fertility Awareness** booklets are available in English and Spanish; the ST booklet is only available in English. For orders please write to Larry and Isabelle Kane, 2436 Dimmick Ave., Scranton, PA 18509; 717-346-6737.

Dioceses of Albuquerque & El Paso

St. Joseph Hospital NFP Teacher Education Center, Albuquerque, NM, in cooperation with the Diocese of El Paso, TX, announces **Teacher Training Programs for NFP Practitioner and NFP Instructor**, Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 1989 in El Paso. A limited number of scholarships are available. Inquiries to Rose Mary Manriquez-Barrera, NFP, 499 St. Matthews St., El Paso, TX 79907. 915-595-5032.

Diocese of ST. Cloud

Diocesan NFP Director, Kay Ek, is coordinating a Caribbean Cruise for the group **Journeying Forth** (an ecumenical Christian group). Dates: Jan 20-28, 1989. Prayer and daily Seminars will be given by Ingrid Trobisch and Clayton Barbeau. Space is limited. For further info. call Kay Ek (O) 612-252-4721, (H) 612-252-7719; or, Bursch Travel Agency, Inc., 612-251-3180.

Diocese of Rockford

A **Teacher Training Program for NFP Practitioner** based on the Billings Ovulation Method using Creighton Model curriculum will be offered by the Diocese of Rockford, IL. Education Phase I will be held Jan. 7-16, 1989; Education Phase II, June 23-30, 1989. (Application deadline was Nov. 1, 1988; late registrations will be accepted with a fee of \$50.)

Send requests to: Phyllis A. White, CNFPE, Dir., 7708 East McGregor Road, Rockford, IL 61102. 815-965-5011.

Pope Paul VI Institute

Six separate Educational Programs will be offered in Oct. 1989. For further information please contact: Pope Paul VI Institute, Creighton Model NFP Education Programs, 6901 Mercy Road, Omaha, NE 68106; 402-390-9168.

VIDEO TAPES

Now available in the U.S.: new video tapes featuring Dr. John and Evelyn Billings. A two volume set: tape #1, The Billings Ovulation Method--"The Application", (43 min.). Tape #2, The Billings Ovulation Method--"The Science", (42 min.). \$34.50 per tape or \$65.00 per set. Ten percent discount if five or more ordered. Add \$2.50 for postage and handling. Send requests to Kay Ek, NFP--Video, 305 North 7th Ave., Suite 102, St. Cloud, MN 56303.

NFP, A Special Message, published by Liguori, offers a 10 min. video introduction to NFP. It is especially geared for those who are hearing of NFP for the first time. The video does not teach a specific method, it simply gives an overview. Cost is \$29.95 (no shipping charges will be made on prepaid orders). If interested, call toll-free: 800-325-9521; or write, Liguori Publications, Attn: Audio & Videocassette Dept., 1 Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057-9989.