

Diocesan Activity Report-NFP

100 Linden Avenue

Irvington, New Jersey 07111

(201) 596-4207

April 1989

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

Pope Tells U.S. Bishops American Culture has Positive Values, Needs Gospel Uplift

Pope John Paul II has told the bishops of the United States that while the culture of their country offers much that is of positive value, that culture also needs to be "purified and uplifted" by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

The Pope's words came in a letter written to each of the nation's nearly 400 Roman Catholic bishops. The letter was sent as a follow-up to a March 8 - 11 meeting at the Vatican involving the Pope, leaders of the Roman Curia and 36 Cardinals and Archbishops of the United States.

The Vatican meeting had focused on evangelization in the cultural context of American society, with particular emphasis on the bishop's meeting. Both U.S. and Vatican representatives had frequently highlighted some of the cultural themes against which American bishops labor, including: an exaggerated individualism, which frequently exalts personal satisfaction above the common good; a growing secularism, which ignores permanent and eternal values; a rampant consumerism; and the mass media's glorification of sexual satisfaction as an end in itself.

The Pope called the Rome meeting "a most fruitful reflection and discussion" which has manifested a "profound collegiality" and he said that the meeting would offer "valuable points of reference" for the bishops' future ministry.

NATIONAL STANDARDS — FOCUS OF JULY '89 DDP FOR NFP CONFERENCE

The *National Standards for Diocesan NFP Accreditation and Certification* (hereafter **Standards**) will be the focus of the July '89 DDP for NFP Conference at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.

In March 1981 the Administrative Committee of NCCB approved the establishment of the DDP as a department of NCCB which would "build upon the momentum in the NFP movement generated during the Synod of Bishops in October 1980." Under the guidance of its director (then Msgr. James T. McHugh), the DDP began the task of assisting U.S. Catholic dioceses in implementing the Church's teachings on Conjugal Love and Responsible Parenthood. A systematic approach was taken in order to coordinate and expand the availability of NFP services to the Catholic community under the auspices of diocesan programs. Although all the goals of the DDP have not been fully realized, progress has been made and NFP services can presently be found as single agencies within the diocesan structure; as part of Family Life offices; as components of Catholic Charities; as well as within Catholic hospitals.

The need for national standardization of diocesan NFP programs and teachers has been a common concern. The launching of the **Standards** represents a goal which the DDP has had from its inception. The project for the **Standards** was formally recommended by the diocesan coordinators during the National meeting at Seton Hall in

(*Standards cont. from p. 1*)

July 1987. At that conference the participants took part in a full discussion of the project. Possible problems were raised: "What would be the nature of the testing?"; "How could the process cover the different training programs and philosophies of all the provider groups?" Benefits surfaced: couples trained in one diocese would not have to be retrained in another; a sense of unity among the diocesan programs would exist; credibility would be given to diocesan NFP programs. The DDP proposed that a committee be appointed to study the best approach to national NFP certification. Participants agreed that the DDP director, Bishop McHugh, select the committee. Within six months of the '87 conference, invitations to join the committee were sent to: Stephen Burke (Diocese of Providence, RI), Carmela Cavero (Fresno, CA), Donna Dausman (Springfield, IL), Rose Fuller (Northwest NFP Services, OR), Robert Kambic (Johns Hopkins Univ., MD), Jay Paulukonis (Sioux Falls, SD), Mary Ann Stanton (Cleveland, OH), James Statt (Phoenix, AZ), and Mary Pat Van Epps (Memphis, TN).

The meetings of the Certification Committee began in Jan. '88 (cf. **Diocesan Activity Report-NFP**, April '88, Sept. '88, and Dec. '88). Priorities were defined, tasks were articulated and a schedule of work was drawn up during the Jan. '88 meeting. The Committee was divided into several sub-committees which met inbetween the plenary meetings. The sub-committee on "Methodology" was pivotal. They prepared the first draft of the **Standards** for the June '88 plenary meeting. It was this draft that served as the working document. All other sub-committee work was integrated into this document. At that time Dr. Mary Martin of International Federation for Family Life Promotion, was invited to join the committee. The final plenary committee meeting took place on April 6 - 8, 1989 in Newark, N.J.

The **Standards** cover the following areas: I Minimum Standards for Diocesan NFP Programs; II Minimum Standards for NFP Teacher Training Programs; III Minimum Standards for Diocesan NFP Teachers; IV Minimum Standards for Diocesan NFP Client Couple Education; V Minimum Standards for Evaluation of Diocesan NFP Teachers; and VI The Implementation of the DDP National Standards and Certification. The July '89 Conference will explore each area of the document as well as offer various workshops on the implementation of the **Standards**. Special features of the Conference include a keynote address on the "Apostolic Exhortation on the Laity" given by Bishop McHugh, and a banquet on Friday evening (July 7th), with a guest speaker.

STUDY REVEALS DAY-CARE QUESTIONABLE

For the person who is actively wrestling with balancing a job and parenting, problems of day-care are all too real. While there are no clear solutions at this time, there is a wealth of information that one could gather to reflect responsibly on the problem of working while one has children. One such article comes to mind by Karl Zinsmeister entitled, "Brave New World — How Day-Care Harms Children" (*Policy Review*, Spring 1988). The author's thesis is that nonparental child care during the first three years of life is to be avoided because of possible risks to the child's emotional and intellectual life.

Zinsmeister, a research associate at the American Enterprise Institute, notes that the number of children raised by "hired workers" is rapidly increasing. "Does this adversely effect the child?" is a question that must be asked. Research indicates that nonparental care for the very young (infant - 3) is to be avoided. Some findings show that "infants interpret repeated daily separations as rejection", and consequently

develop weak and insecure bonds with their parents. Other follow-up data suggests that 5 - 6 year olds who had spent part of their first years in some type of day-care (in a center, private home, or the child's house) are more likely to engage in negative aggressive behavior, be less cooperative, have less tolerance of frustration, demonstrate a pattern of social withdrawal, and score lower on IQ tests.

In the author's words, "The latest research confirms that serious problems can arise anytime one substitutes a paid relationship for the natural parent-child bond." Until society and individuals develop more just socio-economic structures, a "second choice solution" (for those who must leave their child) would be to have a relative — one who freely exhibits love — care for the child.

SCIENCE NOTES — BY DR. HANNA KLAUS Breast Cancer and the Pill;

Two papers were discussed by the FDA in Jan. '89, and received much press: Miller, et al., "Breast Cancer Before Age 45 and Oral Contraceptive Use: New Findings", from Boston U. School of Public Health, U. of PA and Memorial Hosp.; and Kay C., Hannaford PC, "Breast Cancer and the Pill — A Further Report from the Royal College of General Practitioners' Oral Contraception Study", RDGP Manchester Research Unit.

In the first paper, Sloan Kettering reported a beginning increase of risk of breast cancer with ever-use, doubling at less than ten years of use and quadrupling for over ten years of use, by age 45. The risk was not affected by the timing of the first pregnancy, nor the interval since use. Women in low risk categories showed increased risk with five years or more oral contraceptive use. The paper cites other studies which show increased risk with long term use of OC's at a young age: six or more years of use before age 25 correlated with a nearly five-

fold increased in risk, as well as those which showed no increase in risk.

The second paper summarizes their findings and the authors conclude: "the data suggest that OC use, probably before the first term birth may be associated with an increased rate of presentation of breast cancer in women under the age of 35 years."

The FDA decided to do its own study before making any recommendations. The press, however, did not state that the use of birth control pills by adolescents may put them at increased risk. The risk of cervical cancer in women from age 17 on has increased greatly since the age of first intercourse has become lower and lower. Allegedly half of our teens have initiated intercourse by age 16. The likelihood of multiple partners is high, introducing the confounding variable of human papilloma virus infection, which in turn is acknowledged to be the immediate causative agent for squamous cell carcinoma and is also suspected to be the agent in adenocarcinoma of the cervix.

Dialogues in Contraception 6, 1987 acknowledged that the addition of oral contraceptives increases the risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma following HPV infection by an additional one third. None of this has yet persuaded the profession to switch to the obvious preventive measure of addressing the behavior which could obviate the "need" for contraceptive pills. Dr. Louise Tyrer, Vice-Pres. for Medical Affairs, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, is quoted by *The Washington Post* Jan. 17, 1989, "An American public's expectation of birth control is very unrealistic. They want perfection." "It isn't like treating a disease where someone is ill and they're willing to take all sorts of chances to get well." NFP providers should contact their local medical society and remind them of the existence and acceptability of NFP!

NEWS BRIEFS

DDP FOR NFP

****Special Announcements****

Dr. Hanna Klaus (NFP Center of W.D.C.) will be writing for the **DDP Activity Report** in a special column called "**Science Notes**". The column replaces Dr. Klaus' "Science Notes" which appeared with her **OM News** mailings. The column makes its debut in this issue and will continue in subsequent issues.

National NFP Diocesan Coordinator Conference — July 5 - 8, 1989. At Seton Hall U., South Orange, N.J. Advanced registration through the DDP office: 201-596-4207. Fees include: Registration — \$15.00; Rooms — \$25.00 per person, per night, double occupancy. A single room will cost \$30.00 where available. Meals are \$15.00 per person, per day. This is a flat charge, no exceptions.

Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown

A one day workshop will be held at Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg, PA, April 29, 1989, 1:00 p.m. The workshop, entitled "NFP: An Experience of Love", will feature topics such as: "Bioethical Perspective on the Church's Teaching on Family Planning", "The Contraceptive Mentality in the Modern World", and "NFP: Definition and Overview". Among the speakers will be Fr. Phil Kraus, Assistant Director, DDP, and Fr. Dennis St. Marie, President of the Human Life Center and board member of WOOMB International. For further information, please contact Rosemarie Kiese-wetter, 814-946-3544.

*******NEW NFP BOOKS*******

Margaret Nofziger's *Signs of Fertility, The Personal Science of Natural Birth Control*, (1988, \$6.95 plus postage). Available from MND Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 210813, Nashville, TN.

Pope Paul VI Institute

A Mini-Course will be offered April 28 - 29, 1989 at the Marriott Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska. The course is entitled "Value-Centered Reproductive Health for Doctors and Nurses Entering the 1990's". (Fees vary according to profession.) Call toll free 1-800-548-CMED, or write: School of Medicine-Division of CME, Creighton University, Omaha, NE 68178.

Beginning in October 1989 the following courses will be offered: NFP Practitioner, NFP Instructor, NFP Clergy or Religious, NFP Medical Consultant, NFP Supervisor, and NFP Educator. For further information please contact: Pope Paul VI Institute, Creighton Model NFP Education Programs, 6901 Mercy Road, Omaha, NE 68106; 402-390-9168.

NFP Center of Washington, D.C.

OM News — is now included with the DDP newsletter in order to share such news with the NFP community. **Teen STAR News** and the **Victoria Bulletin** will continue to be distributed directly by NFP Center of W.D.C.

Teen STAR Summer '89 Workshop will be held at Seton Hall U., South Orange, N.J.; July 7 (beginning eve) through July 9, 1989.

The Billings; Doctors John and Evelyn Billings will be on the East Coast next Fall and will speak at the following places:

Oct. 30, 1989, (evening — time to be announced); Pastoral Center, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 1, 1989, 7:30 a.m.; Georgetown U. Hospital, Ob. Gyn. Dept. Round.

For further info. on the above please contact Dr. Hanna Klaus, NFP Center of Washington, D.C., 301-897-9323.

Do You Have Information That You'd Like To Share? Send Letters To The Editor!