

DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
A Program of the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities

DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM - PROFILE SHEET
1993 SUMMARY

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DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM--PROFILE SHEET

In the Fall of 1990, the Diocesan Development Program (DDP) initiated an annual national survey. Diocesan NFP coordinators or contact persons were asked to complete a "Profile Sheet" that would:

- 1) provide the DDP with a clearer understanding of diocesan NFP efforts, by focusing on the unique needs of individual dioceses, and
- 2) enable the DDP to provide the diocesan bishops and NFP coordinators with a national picture of diocesan NFP program activity.

The following information is the report of the 1993 Diocesan NFP program activity.

Overview of Findings

In November of 1993, **187** Profile Sheets were mailed to dioceses. By the time of this report, **seventy** or **37%** had completed and returned their Profile Sheets. Some critical trends continue to hold constant when we compare the 1992 survey to the 1993 survey. These include:

- a) Where there is public support expressed by the diocesan bishop, NFP programs are strong and effective. If there is little or no interest on the part of the diocesan bishop, NFP programs flounder.
- b) Only a handful of NFP programs receive adequate financial support from their dioceses. Few NFP programs are given a specific budget for their activities. A common financial arrangement is for the NFP program to share the resources of its umbrella department; e.g., the budget of Family Life; or the facilities of a Catholic hospital. The majority of dioceses contribute far less than \$5,000 per year to help

subsidize NFP programs.

c)Although NFP is officially supported in most diocesan marriage preparation guidelines, it is given limited attention. The average time allotted for NFP education in marriage preparation in 1993 was less than forty-five minutes. In some marriage preparation programs, NFP is not even mentioned.

d)The majority of dioceses do not have a full time NFP coordinator. The coordination of NFP activities is one of many other responsibilities of, for example, the Family Life director. There has been modest improvement in every diocese designating someone as the official Diocesan NFP coordinator.

e)Both the Ovulation Method and the Sympto-thermal Method of NFP are the two most preferred methods of NFP.

f)The majority of the diocesan NFP teachers are volunteers. A few dioceses give their teachers a stipend.

1993 PROFILE SHEET REPORT*

I. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1) Does your diocese have a person(s) who serves as the NFP Coordinator(s), either in an official or unofficial capacity?

69 [99%] YES

1 [1%] NO

2) If the answer to question (1) was "Yes" who is responsible for coordinating NFP programs and services in your diocese: e.g., Family Life Director, Director of Catholic Charities, Engaged Encounter Couple, Pre-Cana Couple, Diocesan NFP Coordinator, Respect Life Director, etc.?

Frequency:

NFP Coordinator:

30 [42%]

Diocesan NFP Coordinator

28 [40%]

Family Life Director

5 [7%]

Associate Family Life Director

8 [11%] Other

3) If the answer to question (1) was "Yes" this position is: (Check only one.)

15 [21%] Full-time, paid

2 [3%] Full-time, volunteer

32 [45%] Part-time, paid/part of other responsibilities

17 [24%] Part time, volunteer

5 [7%] (no response)

4) Please check the statement which best describes your program's staff:

32 [46%] We share support staff.

10 [14%] We have our own support staff.

23 [33%] We do not have a support staff.

5 [7%] (no response)

5) How many NFP teachers work for your diocesan program? (Count teaching couples as two.)

Comment: Total NFP work force as reported by 62 dioceses consists of 765 individuals. (no response = 8 dioceses).

****Totals, percentages, and comments were compiled (1/12/94) from 70 dioceses.***

6)Please check the statement which best describes the program management of your teachers:

18 [25%]Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We give them a stipend.

38 [54%]Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We do not give them a stipend.

6 [8%]We pay our NFP instructors a salary (part and/or full time).

9 [13%] (no response)

7)The diocesan NFP program is: (Check one)

5 [7%] a) Its own department

42 [60%] b) Part of the Marriage and Family Life office

5 [7%]c) Part of Catholic Charities

4 [6%] d) Part of Pro-Life Activities

5 [7%]e) A service of our Catholic hospital(s)

5 [7%]f) Other: Delivered by various diocesan institutions, departments, or approved agencies.

4 [6%] (no response)

8)Other than the diocesan NFP program, NFP services are also provided by: (Check all that apply.)

Frequency

18 Independent NFP teacher(s).

11 Independent NFP organization(s).

27 Other

6 (no response)

9)Does your diocese have an NFP Advisory Committee?

23 [23%] YES

44 [63%] NO

3 [4%] (no response)

10)Did your diocese complete the DDP quarterly reporting forms for last year?

29 [41%] YES

33 [47%] NO

8 [12%] (no response)

11)Does your diocese have its own NFP teacher training program?

15 [21%] YES

52 [74%] NO

3 [5%] (no response)

12)If the answer to question (11) was "No", who trains your teachers? (Check all that apply.)

Frequency:

- 11a) Billings Ovulation Method Association of the United States (BOMA)
- 36b) Couple to Couple League (CCL)
- 4c) Family of the Americas
- 7d) Northwest Family Services
- 20e) Pope Paul VI Institute (Creighton Model, OM)
- 5f) Other:
 - 7 (no response)

Comment: The following results represent the frequency each provider was mentioned. Dioceses use various national providers. This is due to NFP teachers moving from one diocese to another or because of the proximity of a particular provider to a diocese.

- 13) Why was your NFP provider(s) chosen for training your teachers; e.g., methodology, affordable fees, convenient, locale, etc.?

Frequency:

- 17 Methodology
- 21 Affordability
- 6 Convenient/locale
 - 11 All above
 - 4 Already present
 - 23 (no response)

Comment: Dioceses with a mixed rationale for selecting a provider included criteria such as: tradition in the diocese; proximity; affordability; quality of program; materials; good working relationship with the provider; and past training of teachers.

II. PROGRAM BUDGET

14) How much money was spent last year on NFP programming?

11 [15%]	0
37 [52%]	1-4,000
8 [11%]	5-9,000
5 [7%]	10-29,000
6 [8%]	30-49,000
1 [1%]	50-69,000
3 [3%]	>70,000
2 [3%]	(no response)

Comment: Only a handful of dioceses set aside specific funding for NFP programs. The majority of dioceses spend only a few hundred dollars directly on NFP. Most NFP program efforts draw from the general budget of a diocesan department; e.g., family life, pastoral ministries, or respect life office. The few cases showing substantial expenditure on NFP programs was typically not because of direct diocesan funding; e.g., funding by a Catholic hospital.

15) What amount of the total in question (14) comes from diocesan funds? (Please estimate the percentage and check only one.)

24 [34%]	100%
14 [20%]	More than 50%
15 [21%]	Less than 50%
11 [16%]	0
6 [9%]	(no response)

16) Other than diocesan funding, what additional sources of income are used to support NFP programs in your diocese? (Check all that apply.)

Frequency: Sources of Funding:

1a)	Federal grants
8	b) Individual parishes
41	c) Client fees
8	d) Catholic organizations
7	e) NFP program fund raising activities
6	f) Other: Catholic hospitals, K of C's grants, etc.
19	(no response)

Comment: These numbers represent the frequency a specific source of funding was mentioned.

Many programs rely on a variety of funding sources.

III. PROGRAM SERVICE

17) Which NFP method(s) is currently taught in your diocesan program? (Check all that apply.)

Frequency:Methods:

52	a)	ST
36	b)	OM
5c)	BBT	
1d)	Other	
6		(no response)

Comment: Because most dioceses use a variety of providers or teachers having been taught in different NFP methods, various NFP methods are offered. The frequency of each method reflects this reality in dioceses throughout the country.

18) How many individuals (couples count as 2) in your diocese received instruction in NFP during the last 12 months? (Give your best estimate.)

Comment: Sixty-one dioceses responded to this question for a total of 106,982. Instruction was interpreted by respondents to mean: a complete course of instruction, brief presentation, promotion, or introduction to NFP.

19) How many individuals (couples count as 2) attended NFP class/instruction?

Comment: Sixty-six dioceses responded to this question for a total of 8,413.

20) Of the total number of individuals instructed in NFP, how many were non-Catholics? (Check only one.)

Estimates in Percentages:

4 [6%]	None [0%]
34 [49%]	Some [1%-25%]
12 [17%]	Many [26%-50%]
4 [6%]	Most [51%-75%]
16 [22%]	(no response)

21) Does the diocese have a policy which strongly encourages engaged couples to participate in an NFP course of instruction?

28 [40%] YES 38 [54%] NO 4 [6%] (no response)

22) Is NFP included in your various diocesan marriage preparation programs?

61 [87%] YES 6 [9%] NO 3 [4%] (no response)

23) If the answer to question (22) was "Yes", on the average, how much time is allotted to NFP education? (Give your best estimate.)

Time Allotted for NFP Education:

19 [27%]	a)	5 min. - 15 min.
16 [23%]	b)	20 min. - 30 min.
19 [27%]	c)	35 min. - 45 min.
6 [9%]	d)	1 hr. - 2 hrs. +
10 [14%]		(no response)

Comment: The time allotted to NFP varies considerably, not only from diocese to diocese, but within each diocese; e.g., emphasis of instructor, program, etc.

24) Continuing education in NFP was provided in the diocese, during the last 12 months, for:
(Check all that apply.)

Frequency:

38	NFP Teachers
23	NFP clients
12	Clergy
11	Other: pre-Cana couples, student groups, doctors, etc.
21	(no response)

25) How was continuing education provided? (Check all that apply).

Frequency:

20	Seminars
18	Workshops
14	Special lectures
23	Articles for the diocesan newspaper
18	Informational mailings
15	Periodic informational meetings
6	Diocesan NFP newsletter
5	Other: diocesan conference, individual sessions, etc.

26) Does your diocese have guidelines on human sexuality?

33 [47%] YES 28 [40%] NO 9 [13%] (no response)

26) If the answer to question (26) was "Yes", is NFP incorporated in your Diocesan Human Sexuality guidelines?

20 [29%] YES 10 [14%] NO 40 [57%] (no response)