

Life Cycles



Spring 2008

The newsletter of the

Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Network (PNFPN)

NFP Gets Government Recognition

By George Finnin

Ever so slowly, Natural Family Planning advocates are causing government agencies to recognize NFP. As reported in the *St. Louis Review* online, the American Academy of FertilityCare™ Professionals, an organization promoting the Creighton Model of NFP, worked for years to have NFP recognized in the medical coding system used by the government, insurance companies, and health care providers. As a result, two codes were finally approved last October 1:

V25.04: Counseling and instruction in natural family planning to avoid pregnancy

V26.41: Procreative counseling and advice using natural family planning

Depending on the health insurance provider, the above services may be included in the coverage. The article noted that the St. Louis Archdiocesan Benefits Council ap-

proved 100 percent coverages. The coverage includes services from Creighton Model, Couple to Couple League, Billings Ovulation Method, and Marquette Model.

Cardinal Justin F. Rigali, chairman of the bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, sent a letter to American bishops in September, asking them to consider coverage of Natural Family Planning in their diocesan health insurance policies in light of the new codes. Letters were also sent to diocesan NFP departments as well as the diocesan development program for Natural Family Planning in the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

For our local advocates—is it time to ask your insurance provider whether they will include coverage in your policy? Each time this question is asked, awareness of NFP will be increased.

<http://www.stlouisreview.com/article.php?id=14155>

Letter from the President

Dear PNFPNers,

Where has the time gone? We are in 2008! Another year to promote NFP. Thanks be to God. We are also in an election year, not only for the president of the United States, but also for three new board members of PNFPN. The organization is in its ninth year and we are in need of new laborers in the vineyard. Not that those who currently serve, or those who have served so well in the past, have not planted their share of seeds, but many good things are happening, and we would love to have some fresh minds and hearts to serve on the board. We have over 500 names on our mailing list; only about fifty are dues-paying members, and nine serve on the board. It does not take a lot of time. It does not take a lot of effort. We invite you. We pray for you to say yes. Any or all or some. Please let us know if you would be willing to serve on the board.

There will be a NaPro technology conference this September right here in Philadelphia with special guest Dr. Thomas Hilgers. There will be a *Humane Vitae* conference this July in Cherry Hill, NJ, on the 40th anniversary of the encyclical that teaches the values of the Catholic Church on family planning. Make sure you vote with a properly formed conscience this year: Attend at least one conference in the area on NFP.

Please support PNFPN with your time (on the board), your talent (submit an article to *Life Cycles*, become an NFP witness couple), and your treasure. Above all, pray for us, that we may successfully spread the good news about Natural Family Planning.

Thanks and God bless,
Les Ruppensberger, D.O.

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Natural Family Planning Network (PNFPN)

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In-Vitro Fertilization in a Catholic Hospital?

by George Finnin

Over one year ago, the Pro Life Union discovered that a Philadelphia Catholic hospital is supporting IVF. The Pro Life Union has protested the fact that IVF is practiced on the campus of the hospital and has questioned its consistency with Catholic health care. They ask: Of all the locations an IVF clinic can locate, why must they be on the campus of a Catholic hospital? Why would a Catholic hospital rent them space? The hospital administration has given no explanations.

The IVF technique removes eggs from a woman and places them in a culture media. Sperm from the man are introduced and several embryos are created. Some or all of them are transferred to the woman with the hope that a live birth will result. The Catholic Church condemns this practice because the fertilized

Continued on back cover

How Chaste a Foundation

A review of *Emily's Hope* by Ellen Gable,
Full Quiver Publishing

by James F. Volpe

In the first overhaul since inception, the Couple to Couple League is updating all of its materials, as well as its method. The Creighton System's NaPro Technology is having tremendous success and expanding all over the nation. The NFP movement has passed through its infancy and is in the growth spurts of puberty, along with the daughters of the current generation of NFP users. All NFP using parents are concerned with how to pass on the beauty of the Church's teaching on sexuality to their daughters. Since many NFP users have discovered this beauty only after hard lessons in life, they wish to spare their daughters from these same growing pains.

To impart these lessons in sexuality, Ellen Gable has adopted my favorite pedagogy, teaching through novelization. In *Emily's Hope*, Mrs. Gable alternates between telling the story of Emily, living in the seventies, and Emily's great-grandmother, living at the turn of the twentieth century. This proves to be a brilliant device which allows for simultaneously explaining the separate time frames during which contraception and abortion were legalized. The story of Emily covers many situations which those in the pro-life community experience: bigotry from doctors, confusion from friends, silence from family, witnessing to deaf ears, and sympathy from no one except a spouse. The story of Emily's grandmother covers the militancy and cold-heartedness of the birth control movement as well as the rationalizations often used by pro-abortion advocates. The book teetered on the edge of covering too much with these instructional vignettes, but, thankfully, the scenes did not become overwhelming and the story held together on its own merits.

As I witnessed Emily and her great-grandmother travelling through their lives, I was reminded of another gloriously educational novel, *How Firm a Foundation*, by Marcus Grodi. That novel relates the tale of a Christian pastor as he follows the lonely road of Christ across the Tiber and into Roman Catholicism. Mr. Grodi wrote his novel to explain his journey to his parents, whom he loved very dearly but who could not understand his conversion to Catholicism. Mrs. Gable's novel covers the conversion of a young woman's heart. She wrote her novel to explain the beauty of the sexual powers to her daughters in case they could not understand the witness of her life. Both novels are works of love, explaining how deep love can be.

The "Net"works

NFP Classes and Introductory Sessions

WYNNEWOOD, PA

MARCH 12 • 7:00 P.M.

Free introductory session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System will be held at the parish center of Presentation BVM Church, 240 Haverford Road. Contact: Marcia Niznan, FCPI, at (610) 789-4547.

CHALFONT, PA

MARCH 14 • APRIL 11 • MAY 9 • 7:00 P.M.

Free introductory sessions of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System will be held at 800 Manor Drive. Contact Liz Parrish, RN, CFCP, at (215) 249-9829.

ORELAND, PA

MARCH 19 • APRIL 16 • MAY 14 • 7:00 P.M.

Free introductory session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System will be held at 88 Pennsylvania Avenue. Contact: Barbara Rose, RN, FCP, at (215) 884-2922.

EXTON, PA

MARCH 19 • APRIL 16 • MAY 21 • JUNE 18
6:30 P.M.

Free introductory sessions of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System will be held at Sts. Philip and James Church, 107 North Ship Road. Contact: Helen LaFrance, PA, FCP, at (610) 436-8323.

MT. LAUREL, NJ

APRIL 1 • 7:30 P.M.

A Sympto-Thermal Method NFP class by the Couple to Couple League will be held at St. John Neumann Church. This is a series of three classes spaced about one month apart. For directions and registration, call (856) 583-6120 or e-mail: nfpoffice@camdendiocese.org

PHILADELPHIA, PA

APRIL 5 • MAY 3 • 2:00 P.M.

Free introductory session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System will be held at St. Athanasius Church, 2050 East Walnut Lane. Contact: Dr. Pauline Olufemi Awobodu-Alabi, FCPI, at (215) 843-1553.

YARDLEY, PA

APRIL 8 • JUNE 10

The Philadelphia Family Life Office will sponsor a class in the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP at St. Ignatius Church, 999 Reading Avenue. For more information or registration, please call (215) 587-5639.

BROOMALL, PA

MARCH 12 • MAY 6 • 7:00 P.M.

Free introductory session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System will be held in the Dowd Center conference room at St. Pius X Church, 220 Lawrence Road. Contact: Marcia Niznan, MS, FCP, at (610) 789-4547.

HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ

APRIL 21 • 7:30 P.M.

A Sympto-Thermal Method NFP class by the Couple to Couple League will be held at St. Rose of Lima Church. This is a series of three classes spaced about one month apart. For directions and registration call (856) 583-6120 or e-mail: nfpoffice@camdendiocese.org

CAMP HILL, PA

APRIL 26

A certificate program for FertilityCare™ practitioners will be held. For more information or for an application, contact Dorice Millar, RN, FCE, education program coordinator, Holy Spirit Health System, at (717) 909-9414 or via e-mail: dmillar@hsh.org. Applications need to be received by March 14 to avoid the late application fee of \$100.

NORRISTOWN, PA

MAY 2

The Philadelphia Family Life Office will sponsor a class in the Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP at Mercy Suburban Hospital, 2701 DeKalb Pike. For more information or registration, please call (215) 587-5639.

MORE INFORMATION IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE AT www.pnfpn.org

Become a Member of PNFPN

In the past, the PNFPN existed solely through the generosity of a few people and never asked its members to pay dues. While we continue to believe that news and information regarding NFP in the Philadelphia region should remain free, our promotional efforts are severely limited without a source of income. Thus, we are asking our members to consider a yearly donation to assist our efforts in spreading the good news of NFP. We request \$15 for an individual membership, \$25 for a couple, and \$10 for a student. Free copies of *Life Cycles* will still be distributed to everyone on the mailing list, but those who donate will be eligible to vote for the executive board members each year. To make a much appreciated contribution, please send your name, address, and phone number with a check payable to PNFPN to P.O. Box 220, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

Do you have any news?

Please remember to contact us whenever you have information that would be valuable to PNFPN members. To submit news and information, please contact George Finnin at grfinnin@verizon.net.

InVitro Fertilization at Catholic Hospital

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egg is not created from a loving act between spouses as God designed, but due to a scientific procedure. Plus there is the question of what to do with the embryos that are not implanted back into the mother's womb.

What is the Catholic hospital doing supporting this activity? It is not obvious by visiting their website. However, one of the doctors registered with their reproductive endocrinology department is part of a practice that advertises IVF treatments. Their practice states: "For women whose fallopian tubes are damaged, in-vitro fertilization is almost always the most effective form of therapy."

Why is the hospital not fully promoting treatments suggested by Creighton Model FertilityCare™? The PNFPN has for years been trying to have natural methods of birth regulation accepted and taught in local hospitals. We still have a long way to go. Sadly, going to the websites of most Catholic hospitals today and searching for "NFP" or "Natural Family Planning" does not return any result.

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