



Summer 2013

Thanks to all who attended the Annual NFP Conference!

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An Uplifting Conference

by George Finnin

Although conference attendance was down from previous years, for those who were there it was an uplifting experience! I heard from many that they really enjoyed the presentations. You can find audio files from presentations from Theresa Notari and John Harden at our www.pnfpn.org website.

Theresa's presentation included some very interesting statistics on Catholic women's attitudes about contraception. The title of the study is "What Catholic Women Think About Faith, Conscience and Contraception" and the full paper can be found at:

http://whatcatholicwomenthink.com/What_Catholic_Women_Think_Contraception-Aug_2012.pdf

For me, some of the highlights that came out from the conference included:

- Before the conference one engaged couple contacted me to see if they could learn NFP at the conference and I told them they should attend a course and gave them locations where they could go.
- A married couple who couldn't attend sent a substantial amount to help our cause.
- At the conference I was able to hear a little about plans for some upcoming activities that will help promote awareness of NFP. I hope to be able to let you know more about this in the future.

Hope to see you at next year's conference!

God Bless,
George Finnin
Editor, *Life Cycles*

Letter from the President

Hello to All:

Happy post Easter season and welcome to the Holy Spirit after Pentecost. Well, we did have our 11th annual PNFPN conference on the "message" of NFP and those who attended were not disappointed. Yes, we did change location, shortened the day and did our usual marketing and advertising; despite all the effort less than 40 people attended - the lowest in 11 years. If all those who are reading this newsletter would pay dues, attend our conference ONCE per year we would have to look for a room for hundreds.

The PNFPN is dedicated to promote NFP in season and out. We are dedicated to continue this newsletter and our annual conference, but, we need your help. Please become a dues paying member; please consider supporting

us with your dues, donations and at least your presence. We have over 600 people on our mailing list and only 30 dues paying members; we will not be daunted.

If you wish to hear our conference talks, go to pnfpn.org. The message is the dignity of the person and the need to recognize that we cannot know ourselves except in the gift of self, which is what happens when couples use NFP in their marriages. Please pray for the future of PNFPN and NFP in Philadelphia.

Thanks and God Bless,
Les Ruppberger, D.O.
President PNFPN

The newsletter of the Philadelphia
Natural Family Planning Network (PNFPN)

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is a quarterly publication.
Articles may be submitted to George Finnin:
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Rachel K. Jones and Joerg Dreweke

Tom Hoopes of CatholicVote reviewed both McGrew’s numbers and the initial study Guttmacher conducted. (Please refer to the chart on the next page.)

“The results are even more skewed if you ask people at the top of a survey what religion they are. People who have never darkened the door of a Catholic Church will happily mark “Catholic” on such a survey. The behavior they report will count for or against Catholics the same regardless of their actual contact with Catholicism,” he writes. “This particular survey even admits that less than a third of its “Catholic” respondents even go to Mass once a week.”

<http://www.lifenews.com/2012/02/13/figure-that-98-of-catholic-women-use-birth-control-debunked/>

The “Net”works
NFP Classes and Introductory Sessions

For more information, visit www.pnfpn.org or call the number listed.

JUNE 11 / JULY 9
Liz Parrish, RN, CFCP • (215) 249-9829

JUNE 14 / JULY 12
Helen LaFrance, FCP • (610) 436-8323

JUNE 20 / JULY 2 & 24 / AUGUST 6 & 28
Theresa Strenge, RN, FCP • (215) 428-2216

JULY 9 / AUGUST 6
Marcia Niznan, MS, FCP • (610) 789-4547

JULY 10
Elisabeth Laskowski, CFCP • (484) 332-9084

JULY 23
Barbara Rose, RN, MSN, CFCP • (215) 884-2922

For more information or registration please visit www.ccli.org.

SEPTEMBER 17 @ 9:00PM
If interested, please contact Alex & Enely Algarme at 484-802-7600 or email algarme@yahoo.com.

Introducing NFP to Others
by Sr. Sheila Galligan

While trying to find ways to introduce the beauty and wisdom of Natural Family Planning to University Students, (searching on the internet, of course!) I happened to see (well no, God’s Providence was at work!) several references to the theme of “Protestants and NFP”. Since our understanding, our Catholic teaching is rooted in the “truth” about the dignity of the human person it’s no surprise to be told that Protestants would accept and embrace it. It’s just not an arena I ever thought about. I invite each of you to be alert to this topic! Some interesting specifics follow:

Protestant Kathleen Quiring (Project M: Musings on Love, Marriage and the Madness that Ensues) heard about NFP Awareness week – and then wrote: “*Natural Family Planning is not just a Catholic thing. Or at least, it shouldn’t be. Anyone who considers sexuality important ought to be familiar with the beautiful ideology behind it. Here are a few articles from the last week or so to get you started.*” She then provided access to some “good reading” on NFP.

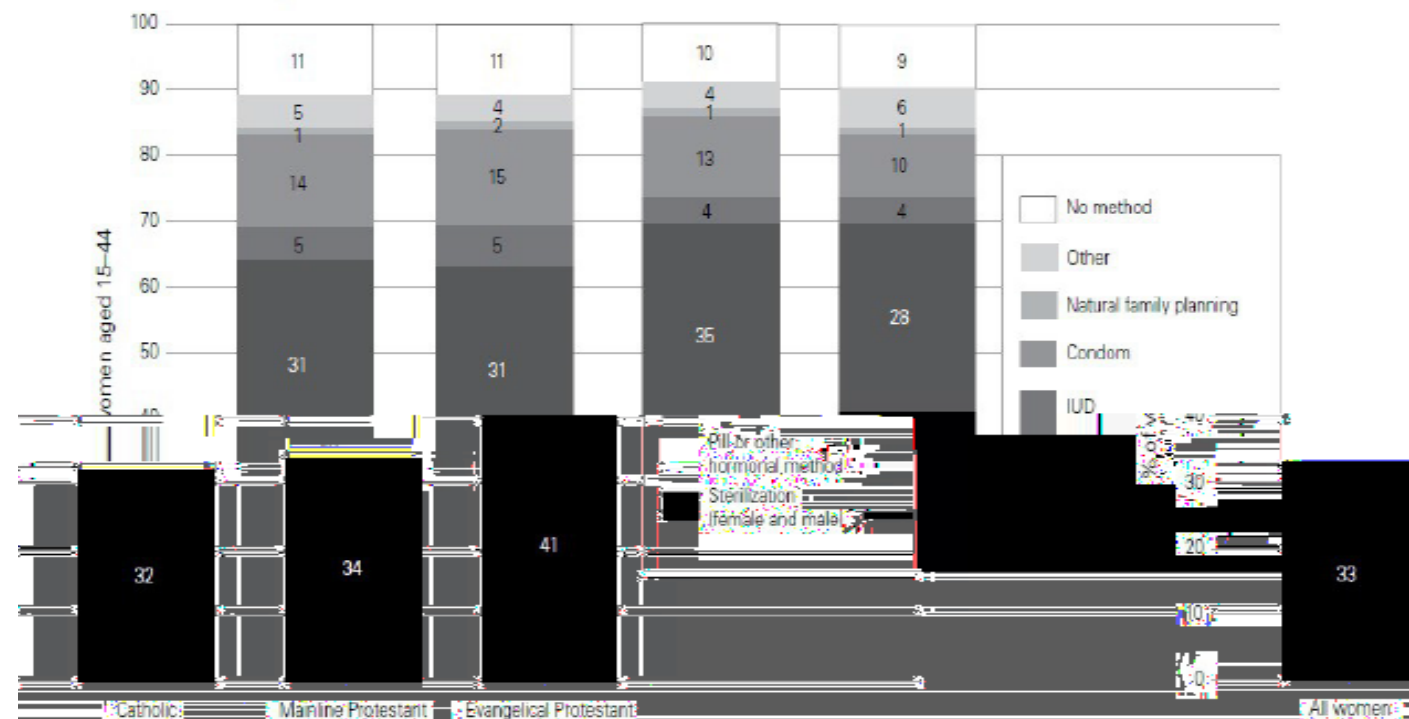
Life Site News (Natural Family Planning, Radical Openness to Life Gains Ground in Protestant Circles) provides a compel-

ling expansion: “*After decades of division over issues surrounding fertility and the moral issues inherent to procreation, many protestants are now turning away from the contraceptive culture and towards Natural Family Planning.*” A blogger (NFP and Me: A Protestant Speaks Up) proclaims: “*I am so very thankful for the constant stand the Catholic church takes for the unborn and for women's reproductive health. And I'm looking forward to standing beside other believers in heaven (Catholic + Protestant) and hearing, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Your children and grandbabies are all here!'*” She enthusiastically concludes: “*Can one little decision, like NFP vs. Abortifacient Birth Control change your life? Absolutely!*”.

Let’s continue to pray for Catholics, Protestants and people from all faiths to open up their hearts and minds to the wonder of NFP!

Sr. Sheila Galligan is Professor of Theology at Immaculata University and a member of the PNFPN Executive Board

FIGURE 3. Evangelical Protestant women are more likely than Catholic or Mainline Protestant women to rely on sterilization.*



*Restricted to sexually active women who are not pregnant, post-partum or trying to get pregnant. Notes: Supplementary tables, which include women who are affiliated with an Other religion and with no religious affiliation are on page 8.