

Life Cycles



Winter 2003

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

New hope for sterilized couples

The PNFPN has discovered that there is a physician in Philadelphia who will perform vasectomy reversals (microscopic vasovasostomy).

Joseph F. Harrybill, MD, a board certified urologist was attending the Catholic Medical Association Conference on October 17, 2003 when he saw the PNFPN table. He introduced himself and, as they say, the rest is history. The following is an introduction in his own words:

I have been performing vasectomy reversal surgery since I began practicing urology, more than 12 years ago. I was fortunate to receive training in microsurgery during residency at Temple University in Philadelphia, and initially did the operation simply because I enjoyed the challenge of using the operating microscope. But like many of my colleagues in medicine, I really had no concern for the moral aspects of surgical sterilization, and so I also performed “no-scalpel” vasectomies as well, and prided myself in being quite proficient at it. I was even once a member of ASRM (American Society of Reproductive Medicine), which

condones all manner of assisted reproductive techniques and contraception.

I had drifted during those years from really living a Catholic life, but marriage and children began to change that. That’s when I began to appreciate the miraculous gift of fertility. Then, I was confronted by a friend several years ago who asked me (in a gentle but point-blank way) how I could be true to my faith and yet perform vasectomies. Not long thereafter, during the Jubilee Year of 2000, I discontinued doing sterilizations.

Looking back, I was very fortunate to have stumbled upon access to an operating microscope when I began my surgical career in the Air Force a decade ago, and performed more than 50 reversals during my 3-year tour (sometimes 2 a day). By a bit of luck (and probably a lot of divine providence), an eye surgeon had ordered a microscope to perform cataract extractions in the small hospital in Texas where I had been assigned, but he had since left the military. The equipment was in crates and about to be shipped back to a defense supply warehouse when I learned of this new “toy”, and I managed to persuade the hospital commander that we could put the microscope to good use!

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A Message from your President

The PNFPN was privileged to be invited to participate in the Catholic Medical Association's National Convention in October of this year. Our own Dr. Lester Ruppertsberger, D.O. and Barbara Rose, R.N. gave presentations to hundreds of medical professionals. We had a display table where we talked to many attendees about our model for promoting NFP and received many positive comments. What we were showcasing was some of the ways we promote NFP as a virtuous life style. That included explaining the efforts that many of you have told us about. We also gained eight new members. Thanks for all you do to attempt to further the cause; it was great to showcase your efforts.

God Bless

George Finnin

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- Liz Parrish
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- James Volpe
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Rev. Msgr. Thomas Scanlon

Since the military provided “free” health care to its active duty members, it was not difficult to find patients who were willing to undergo vasectomy reversal, and so I was able to hone my skills. However, one of the biggest obstacles that I have encountered in civilian practice over the last 8 years is the fact that health insurance plans often do not “cover” the cost of this procedure for its beneficiaries, and patients may be required to pay as much as \$10,000 to undergo micro-scospic vasovasostomy in the Philadelphia area -- much of that related to anesthesia and hospital fees.

In the words of our Holy Father Pope John Paul II, “the history of mankind, the history of salvation passes by way of the family ... The family is placed at the center of the great struggle between good and evil, between life and death, between Love and all that is opposed to Love” (Familiaris Consortio).

Oremus pro invicem.

Dr. Joseph F. Harryhill can be reached at:
MCH Urologic Associates
Pennsylvania Hospital
299 S. 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone 215-829-3409

God's Little Blessings

Thomas W.
born July 29 to
Matt and Mary Anne Pinto

Bernadette born
September 30
to Joe and Theresa Stanton

Lily Ruth and John Louis born
October 13
to Kristen and Randy Colten

Monica Rose
born June 12 to
Lucy and Tom Paschos

Kudos

To Joe Hare, Cecilia LeChevallier and Msgr. Thomas Scanlon for their dedicated service to the PNFPN board

To Martha Wackerman for ensuring the accuracy of the PNFPN directory

Board Member Elections 2003

Thanks so much to all who participated in this year's election! Our new board members are: Liz Parrish, James Volpe and Jeannette Williams.

Welcome New Members

- Mary Tim Baggott -- Yeadon, PA
- Jim & Felicia Coffey -- Havertown, PA
- Kristen and Randy Colton -- Wayne, PA
- Catharine Farnan -- Blackwood, NJ
- Michael & Eileen Flickinger -- Exton, PA
- Mary Ann Freeman Brndjar -- Emmaus, PA
- Jessica Gifford -- Telford, PA
- Joseph F. Harryhill, MD -- Philadelphia, PA
- Marie Ryan -- Clifton, NJ
- Dr. Robert Scanlon, OB -- Huntington, NY
- Luz Maria Sweeney -- Maple Glen, PA
- Joseph & Pamela Tevington -- Morrisville, PA
- Damian Wargo -- Jenkintown, PA

The “Net” works

Mother – Daughter Fertility Appreciation Program

God’s Plan for Love, a mother/daughter fertility appreciation program is scheduled for November 16, 2003 at St. Luke Parish School in Stratford, NJ. This is a wonderful opportunity for mothers and daughters to be together as they explore God’s gift of fertility and the beauty and the wonder of becoming a woman. Call Dr. Chezik at (856) 756-7900, ext. 6314 for more information and registration.

Achieving Pregnancy Class

A course entitled Natural Strategies for Achieving Pregnancy is designed for those desiring pregnancy or having difficulty achieving pregnancy. A series of three classes will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing in Magnolia, NJ beginning on March 3, 2004. Classes are scheduled from 7:30 to 9 PM. For directions and registration call 856-756-7900, ext. 6315 or email: nfpooffice@camdendiocese.org.

NFP Teacher Training Course

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is sponsoring a training course for instructors of the sympto-thermal method of NFP. This will require an interview to determine eligibility and a two weekend commitment for training. For more details please call Lisann Castagno at (610) 660-9002 ext: 50

NFP CLASSES SCHEDULED

Pennsylvania

December 2 - Perkasio
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System and NaProTechnology, a means of monitoring one’s reproductive and gynecologic health. Applicable to all reproductive categories including breastfeeding and premenopause. In addition to achieving or avoiding pregnancy, this system can help in evaluation and treatment of infertility, repetitive miscarriage, abnormal bleeding, ovarian cysts, pelvic pain, PMS and

perimenopausal symptoms. Individual follow up instruction for a fee is available from a FertilityCare Practitioner. Referrals are available to specially trained Creighton Model NFP Medical Consultants in the area who utilize NaPro Technology, a new reproductive medical and surgical science. Please call Liz Parrish, RN, FCP at (215) 249-9829.

December 3 - Limerick
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. Please call Elizabeth Kauffeld, FCPI at (610) 495-8821.

December 4 - Meadowbrook
The Philadelphia Family Life Office will sponsor a class in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning at Holy Redeemer Hospital, 1648 Huntingdon Pk. Please call the Family Life Office at (610) 660-9002.

January 6 - Downingtown
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System to be held at St. Joseph Parish, Manor Avenue in Downingtown. Please call Dorice Millar, RN, FCPI at (610) 873-8334 .

January 6 - Perkasio
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. Please call Liz Parrish, RN, FCP at (215) 249-9829 .

January 9 - Norristown
Philadelphia Family Life Office will sponsor a class in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning at Mercy Suburban Medical Center, 2701 De Kalb Pike in Norristown. Please call the Family Life Office at (610) 660-9002.

January 29 - Oreland
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System to be held at 88 Pennsylvania Avenue in Oreland. Please call Barbara Rose, RN, FCPI at (215) 884-2922

February 3 - Yardley
Philadelphia Family Life Office will sponsor a class in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning at St. Ignatius of Antioch parish in Yardley.

Please call the Family Life Office at (610) 660-9002.

February 3 - Perkasio
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. Please call Liz Parrish, RN, FCP at (215) 249-9829.

February 29 - Philadelphia
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System to be held at St. Matthew Parish, 3000 Cottman Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia. Please call Barbara Rose, RN, FCPI at (215) 884-2922.

March 2 - Perkasio
Free Introductory Session of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. Please call Liz Parrish, RN, FCP at (215) 249-9829.

March 2 - Meadowbrook
The Philadelphia Family Life Office will sponsor a class in the Sympto-Thermal method of Natural Family Planning at Holy Redeemer Hospital, 1648 Huntingdon Pk. Please call the Family Life Office at (610) 660-9002.

March 9 - Downingtown
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New Jersey

The following classes listed are sponsored by the Camden Diocese. Each course is taught in a series of four classes spaced about one month apart. Course fee is \$75 per couple which includes all materials, charts and bi-monthly magazine. Preregistration is requested. For information call: (856) 756-7900 ext. 6315 or email: nfpooffice@camdendiocese.org
November 13, 2003; Gibbsboro 7:45-10 PM at St. Andrew Church.
January 7, 2004; Sewell 7:30-10 PM at Holy Family Church
February 17, 2004; Haddon Height 7-9:30 PM at St. Rose of Lima Church

Become a PNFPN Member

For the past five years the PNFPN has existed solely on the generosity of a few people and never asked its members to pay dues. While we believe that news and information regarding NFP in the Philadelphia region should remain free, we realize that our efforts to engage in promotional activities is severely limited without a source of income. Therefore, we are appealing to our members to consider paying dues to enable us to continue our efforts in spreading the good news of NFP. We ask that you send \$ 15 for an individual membership, \$25 for a couple and \$10 for students. Those of you who become members will be eligible to vote for the executive board members each year. The PNFPN still intends to provide free copies of Life Cycles to all who are on the mailing list. We believe that the distribution of this publication is a valuable service. Please clip out the following and send your check to PNFPN, P.O. Box 220, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

Dear PNFPN,

Yes! I wish to become a dues paying member to help in the valuable work of the PNFPN. I understand that when I pay dues, I will become eligible to vote in the 2004 board election.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Check one: Individual, \$15 Couple, \$25 Student, \$10

Mark Your Calendar for the Next PNFPN Conference

We had such a fabulous conference last year that the board decided to make it an annual event. The conference date has been set for Saturday, March 6, 2004 and it will be held once again at St. Mary's hospital in Langhorne. The committee is seeking volunteers to ensure that 2004's conference is a huge success. Please contact Betty and Lester Ruppertsburger at (215) 321-6698 or Michael Castagno at (215) 885-8388.

We are seeking businesses to rent tables for our vending area. Table rentals this year will be \$ 25. Space is limited so please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling Barbara Rose at (215) 884-2922.

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