

Join the PNFPN!

If you are not registered with the PNFPN, please join us. We need your talents and support if we are to be successful. Consider what would be possible if more people understood the gift God gave us in our cyclic fertility. Become a **dues paying** member of our organization - we need your financial support. Become a **member of the board**, become **NFP instructors and/or witness couples**. **Let us hear from you...**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE PNFPN IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

(Instructors and/or witness couples, member of the board, LifeCycles contributor, Membership coordinator, etc.)

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR NFP?

(Archdiocese Family Life Office, C.C.L., Creighton, Family of the Americas, Boma, or other)

If you decide to become involved – let us know.

Mail the above form to: George and Eileen Finnin 3842 Lywiski Road, Collegeville, PA 19426-1025

Life Cycles

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Life Cycles



Winter 2011 The newsletter of the Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Network (PNFPN)

The American Tragedy in Trilogy

by Joe Tevington

Like the “ghost of Christmas past,” *Fatherless* (One More Soul, 2009) begins Brian Gail’s American Tragedy in Trilogy in the not too distant past, introducing us to three Catholic families struggling with the “universal call to holiness” and a young priest initially unable to feed them with authentic spiritual treasures. *Fatherless* could be a wonderful way to introduce people to the Catechism and its Compendium.

Like the “ghost of Christmas present,” *Motherless* (Human Life International, 2010) captures the same characters several years later, in current struggles, to embody the Church’s great teachings. I particularly appreciated how *Motherless* took on the failure of a fictional Catholic hospital to embrace timeless truths about human life. *Motherless* continued the trilogy’s tradition of being deeply challenging, as well as absolutely entertaining. Brian Gail will not only confront you but will sprinkle his text with wisecracks and good humor! *Motherless* could be a



wonderful way to introduce people to the Church’s beautiful teaching on life and medical issues, as embodied in the Vatican’s Charter for Health Care Workers, Dignitas Personae and Responses to Certain Questions of the USCCB Concerning Artificial Nutrition and Hydration.

Childless (Emmaus Road Publishing, 2011) is like the “ghost of Christmas yet to come,” warning us of inevitable consequences from rejecting God’s Truth. In *Childless*, our unrestrained selfishness has brought us to material and spiritual ruin (of special interest is the author’s continuing deep appreciation of Natural Family Planning). *Childless* could be a wonderful way to introduce people to the Church’s authentic social teaching, as embodied in the Vatican’s Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. Unquestionably, *Childless* is apocalyptic; it should not be misunderstood as a downer. Before it is too late, Jesus and His mom long to embrace us!

Letter from the President

Congratulations to our new Shepherd, Archbishop Charles Chaput. Welcome to Philadelphia from the Philadelphia Natural Family Planning Network. We have been truly blessed to be sent such a Shepherd. It is also good news for natural family planning supporters. When in Denver, Archbishop Chaput was a staunch supporter and advocate of NFP.

As we embark on this new era, I would like to send an open invitation to the over 600 people on our mailing list. The invitation is to evangelize, as we have been called by John Paul II in this “new springtime”. We invite you to be a dues paying member of our organization - we need your financial support. We invite you to be a member of the board. We have four meetings a year and conduct meetings to support NFP throughout the Archdiocese. We invite you to become NFP instructors and/or witness couples - we need you to teach others and spread the word.

WE NEED YOU! Please fill out the application on the back of this newsletter and join us.

Further, we invite you to our tenth anniversary PNFPN conference on Saturday March 24, 2012. The conference theme will be “*Humanae Vitae* as seen through the lens of Theology of the Body”. Some of our speakers will be Fr. Brian Bransfield, Peter Colosi, June Matijwec, Fr. Tim Christy and Dr. Lester Rupeprberger. Go to our website at pnfpn.org for more information.

In the meantime, please pray for us and our ministry of furthering the message of NFP and join us. **WE NEED you.**

God Bless,
Les Ruppertsberger, D.O.
President PNFPN

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Natural Family Planning Network (PNFPN)

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Articles may be submitted to George Finnin:
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3842 Lywiski Road
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Archbishop's Book

by Sister Mary Paula Beierschmitt, I.H.M.

Archbishop Charles Chaput's book, entitled "Living the Catholic Faith" devotes the tenth chapter to the significance of Pope Paul VI's encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* and the complementarity of Natural Family Planning and Catholic beliefs.

"NFP is not contraception. Rather, it's a method of fertility awareness and appreciation. It's an entirely different approach to regulating birth. NFP does nothing to attack fertility ..."

The "Net"works

NFP Classes and Introductory Sessions

Free introductory sessions of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System

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

LANGHORNE, PA

DECEMBER 1 / DECEMBER 20
Theresa Streng, RN, FCP • (215) 428-2216

BROOMALL, PA

DECEMBER 6
Marcia Niznan, MS, FCP • (610) 789-4547

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DECEMBER 12
Contact Liz Parrish, RN, CFCP • (215) 249-9829

EXTON, PA

DECEMBER 13 / JANUARY 16
Elena LaFrance, PA, FCP • (610) 436-8323

JENKINTOWN, PA

DECEMBER 15 / JANUARY 26
Barbara Rose, RN, MSN, CFCP • (215) 884-2922

Philadelphia Family Life Office classes in the Sympto-Thermal method of NFP

For more information, visit www.pnfpn.org or call the Family Life Office at (215) 587-5639.

ARDMORE, PA

DECEMBER 5 & 12
St. Colman Church Rectory, 11 Simpson Rd.

NORRISTOWN, PA

FEBRUARY 10 & 17
Mercy Suburban Hospital, 2701 DeKalb St.

NARBERTH, PA

MARCH 19 & 26
St. Margaret Parish, 208 N. Narberth Ave.

NFP: A Space in the World of Cyber-Grace

by Sr. Sheila Galligan, I.H.M.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIrQwjCUbf0>

At the end of his Wednesday general audience, (World Day for Social Communications, May 2011) Pope Benedict launched an appeal asking that cyberspace be a place that promotes a "culture of respect, dialogue and authentic friendship where the values of truth, harmony and understanding can flourish."

He invited each of us to "Employ these new technologies to make the Gospel known, so that the Good News of God's infinite love for all people, will resound in new ways across our increasingly technological world!"

I took some time to explore two positive responses to Benedict's appeal. Treat yourself and "click" into these resources yourself!

Diocese of Phoenix NFP Promo Video

It's Not "Catholic Birth Control"

The following is a short quote from John F. Kippley at www.nfpandmore.org/nfp_and_the_new_evangelization.pdf, who writes:

*"...Burden or Blessing or Both?
Why didn't the NFP requirement idea catch on? Granted, there are some bishops and priests who simply do not support the teaching of Humanae Vitae, but the overall low response to the 1989 appeal suggests something further: Many believing bishops and priests are hesitant to impose what they feel is a burden. Or they may feel that a pre-Cana day session of one or two hours is sufficient to make interested couples aware of whatever NFP help might be available, and they may feel that requiring the attendance of uninterested couples would be unproductive. They may also think it would be difficult on teachers to flood their courses with reluctant attendees. To the ex-*

A compelling introduction to the "why" of NFP! The clip provides a positive introduction to the Church's vision/teaching, scientific and psychological aspects, and concrete and tangible "witnesses"! Kudos to Phoenix for this effort!

Natural Family Planning- Educational Video

<http://www.desivideonetwork.com/view/y9kv91gm3/natural-family-planning-educational-video/>

A brief (7 minutes) but densely packed clip! It features a lively, young engaged couple who bring their questions/concerns to an interview

with the Parish priest. The clip provides solid content in an engaging "conversational" format!

I think Pope Benedict would be more than pleased!

tent that an NFP course is simply an organ recital, I agree.

Others may think that the unpopularity of Catholic teaching indicates that it is nearly impossible for ordinary couples to follow it. Granted, marital chastity is not easy, but as St. Paul has assured us, God's grace is always sufficient for our needs (cf. 2 Cor. 9). Further, as Cardinal Ratzinger stated in his Jubilee address, "Whoever omits the cross, omits the essence of Christianity." Yes, marital chastity is difficult, but Jesus continues to teach us that "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Mt. 11:30)...."