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Registration Form:

CANFP

10th Annual Conference

Fresno Convention Center March 22, 2003

Correction:
Speaker list updated since newsletter printing.
Consult enclosed brochure for correct listing.

*CANFP NEWS is edited and published quarterly by the California Association of Natural Family Planning.
Produced by: High Rise Designs 213-300-4840 webmaster@canfp.org www.highrisedesigns.com*

CANFP NEWS

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CANFP Offers Hope In Midst Of Scandal!

Fr. Larry Toschi, O.S.J.



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A few days ago the local secular newspaper in my town carried a letter to the editor blaming the Catholic Church's policy of priestly celibacy for "creating the conditions for pedophilia." Society's intense and persistent scrutiny of the Church, however, has not established any link between celibacy and child abuse. The vast majority of child abusers are in fact married and most often are relatives of those abused. What has become so publicly clear is that our clergy and congregations are part of society, and some members are likely to be afflicted by the same psychological and moral ills prevalent in the rest of the population.

Rather than celibacy, the cultural environment rejecting chastity is responsible for "creating the conditions for pedophilia." The belief that sexual abstinence is unhealthy and impossible encourages sexual indulgence that will include perversions. Contraception is directly bonded to this mentality. In fact, consider what would happen if the efforts exerted to investigate the Catholic bishops were directed instead toward the great promoter of contraception, Planned Parenthood: there would be vast numbers of prosecutions and civil suits against their agents for

systematically and illegally failing to report the huge number of adults continuing to impregnate the young girls being brought to them for abortions.

Marriage itself is harmed by the belief that it exists to satisfy one's urges, rather than to freely give oneself to one's spouse for life. Contraception drives a wedge between couples by limiting the self-giving that God meant to be total. When the gift of life is excluded, the unitive goal of marital intimacy is also jeopardized. The desire for self-satisfaction all too easily supercedes the unconditional commitment to seek the good of one's spouse for life. Weak, broken and failed relationships often result. Lack of family unity becomes an obstacle to forming stronger communities in our parishes.

How ironic that our society, so misguided and decadent with respect to sexuality, is publicly disciplining the Church precisely in the area of sexuality where the Church has the richest teaching to offer the world! The failures in the Church come from our members falling prey to the philosophy and practice of our surroundings, and certainly not from our Church teaching. All too many of us are following the world, rather than being the light, salt and leaven we are called to be as Catholics. The current scandals call us to live our faith, and specifically our sexuality, according to the teaching of Christ, counter to this age.

I am so blessed in my parish to have a wonderful team of "Life-Giving Love" couples who live and witness marital love according to God's plan, rejecting the contraceptive mentality. Under the patronage of the Holy Spouses, Mary and Joseph, they teach our marriage preparation classes, present a weekend retreat-workshop for couples, and offer classes in Natural Family Planning. There is a great spiritual bond of support among the couples who appreciate and share this treasure. They are a true light, inviting others to follow, and so enriching our parish community. They are a tremendous

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CANFP Offers Hope continued on P5

CANFP NEWS

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Director's Desk

Sheila St. John, Executive Director CANFP

Tenth Annual Conference! Was it really 10 conferences ago that NFP advocates from throughout California gathered for education, enrichment, and fellowship for the first time under the umbrella of a brand new organization: the California Association of Natural Family Planning?

A decade of memories... **Share the Treasure!**

Gray hairs (mine) tell me it's so! Gray hairs---and a decade of memories of inspirational presenters and annual reunions with treasured friends and colleagues, with new ones swelling our ranks each year. We have convened in the San Jose region (twice), San Diego, Santa Rosa, Oakland, Monterey, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento regions.

And now, on this milestone occasion of our 10th conference, we gather in the heart of our state at the Fresno Convention Center. The theme of this year's conference, proposed by Fresno NFP teacher JoAnn Stephens, is **Share the Treasure**. We will discover the treasures of NFP through presentations and corridor conversations, and we will leave renewed in our commitment and ability to be effective advocates for NFP.

Jim Brown from San Diego will share his personal journey on this path, and how he has "Shared the Treasure" in his corner of this state. Pat Homan, of Couple to Couple League, will offers insights from his years of experience promoting NFP so that we all may more effectively transmit the message

so others can hear it. Martha Garza, MD, will educate us on a topic of concern to many of us and those we teach, who are in the twilight of their reproductive years. Dr. Garza will review the scientific evidence which has caused concern over the routine use of Hormone Replacement Therapy, contrast this with the apparent lack of concern over the routine lifelong use of hormonal contraceptives, and provide healthier solutions.

And that's just the morning!

We will gather at lunch for what has become an annual "state of the union" of CANFP, reviewing the year gone by and planning for the next.

In the afternoon, we will have an extended workshop with NFP providers who are operating programs in a variety of settings in California: parishes, hospitals, and doctor's offices. Physicians, clergy, NFP teachers and promoters will all gain an increased understanding of the many faces of NFP as

Good news from the Epolites---speakers at our 2002 onference



*With love and joy we announce the birth of our daughter
Clare Marie
October 31, 2002
9:17 p.m.
8 lbs. 20 1/2 in.*

*Anthony and
Stephanie Epolite*



seen in the fruits of these varied programs, and bring back practical tips on improving or establishing programs offered in their respective regions. The afternoon will also offer the opportunity to gather in small groups to identify special needs and common concerns.

Bishop John Steinbock will preside over the celebration of a vigil Mass and join us for the reception and banquet immediately following. At the banquet we will honor this year's recipient of the Calegari Award and expand our discussion to global dimensions with a presentation by Austin Ruse on the battle to curb the UN assault on life, faith, and family.

Join us to celebrate a decade of achievement and a future of promise. **Share the Treasure!**

Clergy Corner

Natural Family Planning and Spirituality
Bishop John T. Steinbock

Natural Family Planning is not simply an effective and medically healthy means for the spacing of children. It is a way of life that enables husband and wife to base their relationship on the truth of God's life-giving love. NFP demands good communication between husband and wife, so essential for successful relationship. Communication in the most intimate part of their lives in their conjugal bond, which many couples never experience, encourages communication about every other aspect of their lives.

NFP demands openness, trust, mutual understanding, patience, putting the other before self, authentic personal love.

Natural Family Planning is not mainly about spacing children. It is about authentic Christian discipleship, putting Jesus at the center of the marriage relationship. NFP helps a couple to struggle against the daily influence in society of a materialistic and individualistic understanding of sexuality, which can erode a couple's relationship.

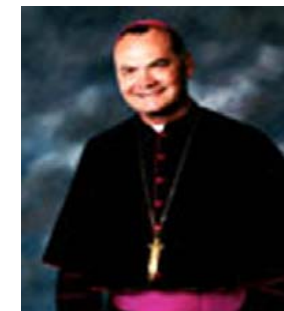
The practice of Natural Family Planning prevents a couple from looking at each other as an object to satisfy their sexual wants. Personal love, not

sexual satisfaction, becomes the emphasis for their conjugal bond and for their ongoing relationship. NFP emphasizes the personal qualities of love in a marriage relationship and the practice of the virtue of chastity within the marriage. NFP demands openness, trust, mutual understanding, patience, putting the other before self, authentic personal love. It is said that people must work at love to remain in love. NFP becomes a means for working at that love every day of their lives.

Add to all of this, faith in a loving and merciful God, the frequent use of the sacraments, prayer in the family, trust in the grace of the sacrament of marriage, and the support of the Christian community, couples can find Jesus as The Way, to true, committed self-giving love in their marriage covenant.

Excerpt from Bishop John T. Steinbock's Pastoral Letter "Life-Giving Love of Husband and Wife in Light of the Teaching of the Church on Marriage and the Family"

Available from CANFP for \$2 each

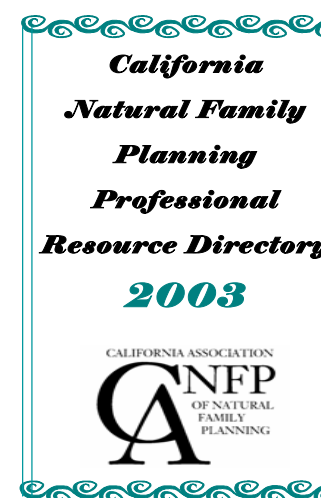


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Don't Miss Out On What God Has For You!

Joel Maciel

Family Life Coordinator, Diocese of Fresno

The future
of humanity
passes by
way of the
family

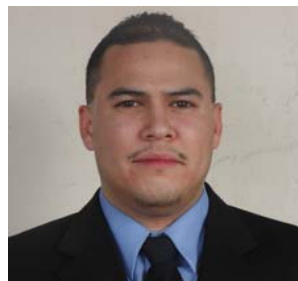
Come join us at the Fresno Convention Center Saturday, March 22, 2003 for the 10th Annual Conference of the California Association of Natural Family Planning (CANFP). "Share the Treasure" is the theme for this event, so gather to learn about one of the best-kept secrets – Natural Family Planning (NFP). There's only one problem: it's not supposed to be a secret! Rather it's a "treasure to be shared."

Alternatively, society has a completely distorted vision of sex and doesn't recognize the sacredness of it. The world teaches methods that are

contrary to the Church's teaching. Contraception contradicts the Christian calling. Its language is contradictory, namely, that of not giving oneself totally to the other and thereby refusing to be open to life. Which would you rather have: a \$100 bill or \$100 counterfeit bill? Both can be used but it doesn't make it morally right. Contraceptives, like that \$100 counterfeit bill, are a fraud and fall short of the real truth.

Pope John Paul II tells us in *Familiaris Consortio*, "The future of humanity passes by way of the family". Therefore, in order

to change the future of humanity, the families of today must first change. If the families of today do not change for the better, neither does the tomorrow of society. Therefore the family is like the doorway of humanity itself. We live in a culture of death, but it is time to build a culture of life, one family at a time. Each one of us belongs to a family. All of this begins with our marriages since they are the foundation of the wider community, the family. What better way to begin and enrich these marriages than with NFP. See you there!



Joel Maciel

humanidad, las familias de hoy en día deberían cambiar primero. Si las familias de hoy no cambian para mejorar, tampoco lo hará la sociedad del mañana. Por lo que significa, que la familia es como el lumbral de la humanidad misma. Vivimos en una cultura de muerte, pero es tiempo de crear una cultura de vida, una familia a la vez. Cada uno de nosotros pertenece a una familia. Todo esto comienza con nuestros matrimonios ya que ellos son la fundación de la comunidad más amplia, la familia. Que mejor manera de comenzar y enriquecer estos matrimonios que con la Planificación Natural de la Familia. ¡¡Ahí nos vemos!!

son contradictorios a la enseñanza de la iglesia. Anticonceptivos contradicen el llamado Cristiano. Su lenguaje es contradictorio, expresamente en eso de no darse de sí mismo por completo al otro por lo tanto rechazando estar abierto a la vida. ¿Cuál preferirían ustedes, un billete de \$100 o un billete de \$100 falsificado? Los dos se pueden usar, pero no lo hace correcto moralmente. Los anticonceptivos, como ese billete de \$100 falsificado, es un fraude y están lejos de la verdadera realidad.

El Papa Juan Pablo II nos dice en *Familiaris Consortio*, "El futuro de la humanidad pasa por la vía de la familia." Por lo tanto, para poder cambiar el futuro de la

¡No se pierda lo que Dios le tiene preparado a usted!

Joel Maciel

Coordinador de Vida en la Familia de la Diócesis de Fresno

El futuro de la
humanidad
pasa por la
vía de la
familia

Venga y acompañe nos el Sábado 22 de Marzo del 2003 en el Centro de Convención de Fresno para la Décima Conferencia Anual de la Asociación de California de la Planificación Natural de la Familia (CANFP). El tema para el evento es "Comparta el Tesoro". Así es de que venga y aprenda de uno de los secretos más guardados, -Planificación Natural de la Familia. Hay solamente un problema, ¡Qué no debe ser un secreto! Más bien, es un "tesoro para compartir".

Alternativamente, la sociedad tiene completamente distorsionada la visión del sexo y no reconoce lo sagrado de ello. El mundo enseña métodos que

Ask The Expert

Response by Gregory Polito, MD, KM, Immediate Past President of CANFP and a urologist in private practice in Southern California with a special interest in vasectomy reversal.



Question & Answer:

What is the most inexpensive way for a couple to have a baby when the male has had a vasectomy?

There are really only two commonly accepted ways to do this. Either have the gentleman undergo a vasectomy reversal (or vasovasostomy) or seek counseling from a "reproductive technology" medical group regarding the

technique of sperm aspiration from the testis/intracytoplasmic sperm insemination. The latter is more expensive by a factor of two or three than the former. And ICSI is morally unacceptable for a Catholic, since it separates the loving, unitive parental embrace of sexual intercourse from the procreative event of sperm and ovum fusion. Humanae Vitae <http://www.ewtn.com/library/ENCYC/P6HUMANA.HTM>

is quite clear in teaching us that every child has a right to be conceived via the marital embrace of its parents. Creating human life in a Petri dish is clearly not what the Lord intended for us. If you want a detailed discussion of the technique of vasovasostomy click onto my website (www.urologychannel.com/politomd), pull up my essay on vasovasostomy, and click to Dr. Harry Fisch's excellent paper.



Ask The Expert questions can be submitted through our web site, sent to the CANFP office, or emailed to experts@canfp.org

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If you use their services, please designate **California Association of Natural Family Planning** as your charity of choice and share this tip with family and friends!

La PFN Ofrece Esperanza En Medio De Los Escandalos

Fr. Larry Toschi, O.S.J

Nos duele a todos nosotros católicos oír constantemente tantos reportajes de escándalos entre nuestro clero. Algunos llegan a decir que es por la ley del celibato para los sacerdotes que hay abuso sexual de menores. Con toda su insistencia, sin embargo, la sociedad no ha podido establecer ningún vínculo entre el celibato y tal abuso. La gran mayoría de los que abusan a niños son de hecho casados, y frecuentemente son parientes de los niños abusados. Lo que sí se ha quedado claro es que nuestra comunidad católica, incluso nuestro clero, está influenciada por el mundo en que vivimos, y algunos de nuestros miembros padecen de los mismos males psicológicos y morales de los demás.

En realidad el ambiente actual que rechaza la abstinencia sexual como imposible y que promueve tanta pornografía y actividad sexual afuera del matrimonio no se ha de sorprender cuando otras perversiones resultan. La anticoncepción artificial está estrechamente vinculada con esta mentalidad. Si todos los esfuerzos por investigar y atacar a los obispos católicos fueran aplicados en cambio a "Planned Parenthood," la gran promotora de la anticoncepción, habría muchos más enjuiciamientos y demandas contra sus agentes, por sistemáticamente e ilegalmente negar a reportar el gran número de adultos que embarazan a jovencitas, llevadas a ellos para abortos.

El matrimonio mismo se daña

si se piensa que existe para satisfacer los deseos de uno, en vez de existir para darse a su cónyuge de por vida, abierto a recibir con amor los hijos que resultan del amor mutuo. La anticoncepción está aumentando el número de nuestros miembros quienes viven juntos sin estar casados como Dios manda. También está separando nuestros matrimonios, introduciendo en ellos el egoísmo que trae división. Todo esto a su vez debilita la unión familiar y las nuestras mismas comunidades de Iglesia.

Mientras el mundo está corrigiendo las fallas de la Iglesia, debe a su vez aceptar corrección por su propios errores que son mucho más frecuentes y fundamentales. La Iglesia Católica tiene una riqueza de enseñanza sin par sobre la sexualidad. Los fracasos de nuestros miembros no vienen de esa doctrina, sino del seguimiento del mundo en contra de nuestra fe. Hemos de ser luz, sal y levadura. Los escándalos actuales nos urgen a todos a vivir nuestra sexualidad según la ley de Cristo, y contrario a nuestro ambiente social.

Una de las mayores bendiciones en mi parroquia es el equipo de parejas que testimonian el amor matrimonial según el plan de Dios, rechazando la mentalidad anticonceptiva. Bajo el patrocinio de los Santos Esposos, María y José, ellos enseñan nuestras clases prematrimoniales, presentan un retiro de dos días para parejas, y ofrecen clases de Planificación Familiar Natural (PFN). Hay un

vínculo espiritual de apoyo entre estas parejas quienes aprecian y comparten este tesoro. Son una verdadera luz, invitando a otros a seguir, y enriquecen tanto a nuestra comunidad parroquial. Afirman el Sacramento de Matrimonio como lo estableció Cristo, y también me animan a vivir mi vocación sacerdotal y religiosa como célibe.

No es nada fácil vivir la castidad en el ambiente inmoral de hoy. La anticoncepción artificial es una falta de castidad que se ha hecho la norma del mundo que nos rodea. Es únicamente de nuestra Iglesia que hemos de encontrar y proveer las oportunidades para educar, motivar, animar y apoyar la pureza entre nuestros jóvenes, nuestros matrimonios y nuestros célibes. Debemos preguntarnos cuánto de nuestro tiempo, esfuerzo y recursos hemos invertido en esto. Dios nos ha hecho administradores del don básico de nuestra sexualidad y del santo matrimonio y la procreación.

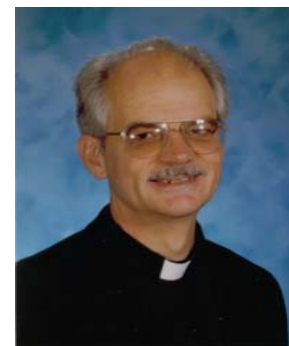
La Conferencia Anual de la Asociación Californiana de Planificación Familiar Natural ("CANFP") es uno de los mejores recursos para que parejas, sacerdotes y personas interesadas puedan aprender más del maravilloso plan de Dios, puedan apreciar más sus hermosos frutos en las vidas de los que lo viven, y puedan encontrar los varios niveles de apoyo necesarios para crecer en la peregrinación personal hacia el Amor y la Vida. En mi crecimiento sacerdotal recibo inspiración de los que toman en

Esperanza

viene de la página 4

serio su vocación matrimonial. Las parejas que he enviado de la parroquia a conferencias anteriores regresan más comprometidas a Dios, a su propia relación, a sus hijos, y a nuestra Iglesia.

Invito a toda pareja a asistir nuestra próxima Conferencia Anual, aquí en mi Diócesis de Fresno, el 22 de marzo. También invito a mis hermanos sacerdotes a participar y a enviar feligreses a esta Conferencia. Es un modo buenísimo de ayudarnos a crecer juntos en la pureza del amor de Dios. Ofrece la luz que disipa las tinieblas, la esperanza que vence el escándalo.



Father Larry Toschi, O.S.J. is Pastor of St. Joachim's parish in Madera and a valued member of the Advisory Board of CANFP. He was a presenter at the First Annual CANFP conference in 1993 and more recently at the 2002 Clergy Convocation on NFP for the Diocese of Fresno. Fr. Toschi and Maribel and Ramon Alvarado, the NFP teaching couple active in his parish, will be presenting a parish model of NFP services in both the English and Spanish workshops at the upcoming conference on March 22, 2003.

CANFP Offers Hope

continued from page 1

affirmation of the Sacrament of Marriage as intended by Christ and also a wonderful encouragement and support to me in living my call to religious and priestly celibacy.

It is most difficult to live chastely (and contraception is a form of unchastity) in an unchaste environment. Our Church communities are to provide the necessary opportunities to educate, motivate, encourage and support purity in our youth, our married couples and our celibates. We need to ask how much of our time, talent and resources are invested in this. As we are called to be stewards of our material gifts, even more so are we called to steward the basic gift of our sexuality and the sacredness of marriage and procreation. CANFP is one of our best resources for doing this.

For years the annual CANFP Conference has given a rare opportunity for couples, priests and interested individuals to learn more about God's marvelous plan, to appreciate its beautiful fruits in the lives of people who live it, and to find all the various levels of support needed for growth in one's personal journey toward life-giving love. I have been inspired in my priestly vocation by my contact with those who take so seriously their married vocation. The couples I have sent there have returned ever more committed to God, each other, their children, and our parish community.

I invite couples to attend our next Conference, here in my Diocese of Fresno, this March 22. I similarly urge my brother priests to participate and send parishioners to this Conference. It is one very good way to help us grow together in God's pure love. It offers the light that dispels the darkness, the hope that overcomes scandal.

10th Annual CANFP Conference

March 22, 2003
Fresno Convention Center

Mass celebrated by
Bishop John T. Steinbock

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