

CANFP NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter published by the
California Association of Natural Family Planning

Spring 2004

Bishops To Address Church's Teaching On Contraception

Bishop John T. Steinbock



Archbishop Chaput at the 2003 November meeting of the Bishops of the United States presented a request from the Committee on Pro-Life Activities. The Archbishop moved that "the body of Bishops approve the request of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities to proceed with adequate consultation of appropriate committees toward drafting a pastoral document on the Church's teaching on contraception linked with the culture of life." After very positive discussion mainly about how best to present this, the motion passed overwhelmingly.

The hope is to have a brief document, with a final draft ready by the 2004 November meeting of the Bishops. This document would be patterned on the recent Conference document "The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist" by having a brief introduction to the teaching followed by questions and answers.

In his presentation at the Conference of Bishops, Archbishop Chaput spoke of how many bishops are dismayed that the Church's Teaching on this matter is not only so often ignored but often presented in a way that the people could not understand clearly the teaching

of the Church. The hope is to have a brief, easily understood booklet explaining Catholic teaching on family planning in a positive and appealing way and showing how this teaching is linked to the task of building a culture of life. This document should present this teaching in a positive vision of marriage, sexuality and reverence for the precious gift of human life, so well articulated by Pope John Paul II.



A lighter moment with Bishop Steinbock and Sheila St. John at 2003 CANFP Conference in Fresno.



Most Rev. John T. Steinbock, DD, Bishop of Fresno, accepts Calegari Award at 2003 CANFP Conference, honored for his faithful promotion of the Church's vision of marriage and family.

This is truly encouraging for all of those involved in the ministry of promoting and teaching Natural Family Planning. I give thanks to all of those who have been so dedicated to this apostolate for these many years, and who have persevered through this time often with little support especially from the very sources one would expect it most. At long last the Bishops will be speaking out on this very important teaching of the Church which is essential to proclaim clearly if we are ever to promote a culture of life in our society, and if we hope to save the very institution of marriage as designed by God.

When the document comes out, whether it be this November or next year, what is important is that it is publicized and made available for God's people especially in our parishes. Married couples are pressured so much by our society to have

Church's Teaching cont. on p. 3

Executive Board

Gregory Polito, MD, KM

Rev. Marcos Gonzalez

Dylan St. John

Sister Michelle, OCD

Winnie Neill

Rev. Blaise R. Berg

Most Reverend Allen Vigneron

Lynn Kerr, MD

James Sweeney

Sheila St. John

Advisory Board

Thérèse Maes, MA

Howard Herning, MD

Evelyn Eaton, PhD

M. Suzanne Regul, MD

Most Rev.

Richard Garcia, DD

Dean Zweng, MD

Rev. Larry Toschi, OSJ

Mary Davenport, MD

T. Murphy Goodwin, MD

TO CONTACT CANFP:

www.canfp.org

Executive Office

1217 Tyler St.
Salinas, CA 93906

E-Mail

info@canfp.org

Phone

831-443-3746
(voice & fax)
1-877-33-CANFP
(toll free)

Director's Desk

Sheila St. John, Executive Director CANFP

Could
the
time
be
now?

I write this edition's comments on the very day we would have gathered as a community at our annual conference. We reluctantly cancelled the event for 2004 and focused our efforts on 2005 when we did not receive any response to our pleas for conference committee members. We now find ourselves in the exact same position planning for the 2005 event—in need of volunteers and funding.

The most recent newsletter identified at least 25 different volunteer needs of the organization. An updated list is repeated in this newsletter. Our volunteer base has not expanded with our level of services, and our funding has not permitted hiring a staff. The bottom line is that without volunteers stepping forward to assume these responsibilities, services will suffer. Already there are projects which are on the back burner because of too few laborers.

An invitation to parishes to join our CANFP team was inserted in the last newsletter, and those who received it were asked to approach parishes in their region and invite them to support CANFP. I cannot know how many parishes were approached, but I sadly report that we did not receive a single inquiry, donation, request for services, or even communication of support from any parish in California since that newsletter. Surely of the over 1,000 parishes in California, more than the 18 listed in this edition would

happily support CANFP with an annual donation—if asked! This letter is inserted in this newsletter again, in the belief that this post lenten and pre-summer month of Our Lady is an opportune time to introduce a parish and pastor to CANFP. I would be happy to mail additional copies of this newsletter to any who request them.

I know everyone is busy raising families, putting food on the table, keeping local programs going, wearing many hats and fulfilling many responsibilities. Believe me, I know! We are involved in our children's educations, Boy Scouts, 4H, church committees and ministries—the list is exhausting. We think someday when the kids are older we will have more time, only to discover the demanding pace of keeping up with teens, and then we become grandparents and find ourselves busier than ever! Time is like money---there seems to never be enough of either, and if we give only of our leftovers, well, the right time just never seems to come. Could the time be now?

What is challenging about NFP is that the message is reaching so few. If those few do not step forward to participate, who will? We each have been given gifts, and with them come the responsibility to contribute to the greater good. Are you being called (kicking and screaming maybe....but called nonetheless) to contribute your gifts to guide CANFP towards its mission?



California Supreme Court Denies Exemption to Mandated Contraceptive Coverage

The California Supreme Court has issued its decision upholding the lower court's ruling that Catholic Charities is not a religious institution and therefore not entitled to an exemption to the California mandate that prescription insurance benefits include contraceptives. In her minority opinion, Justice J. Brown pointedly noted that "This is such a crabbed and constricted view of religion that it would define the ministry of Jesus Christ as secular." Ned Dolejsi, Executive Director of the California Catholic Conference, described the ruling as a "bitter disappointment to everyone who believes that freedom of speech and freedom of religion are the cornerstones of our society. The Court's action today upholding the power of the State to force the Catholic Church to violate its core beliefs on contraception undermines the rights of each and every Californian." James Sweeney, the attorney who argued this case before the Supreme Court, warned in his article for the Winter 2004 CANFP NEWS that "To suggest that the stakes are high in this struggle is, to say the least, an understatement." It may in fact, be an issue appealed ultimately to the United States Supreme Court.

Ask the Expert

Question

and

I was just wondering if there is somewhere I can order charts and stamps over the internet so I do not have to continually call my NFP instructor every few months. Thanks! C.N.



Answer

Dear CN,

I am sure there are internet sources for charts and stamps, though it would depend on the method you are using. You may want to check out the links page at our website www.canfp.org

Though CANFP offers many educational materials over our website, we do not offer charting materials. The reason for this is we believe it is important to stay

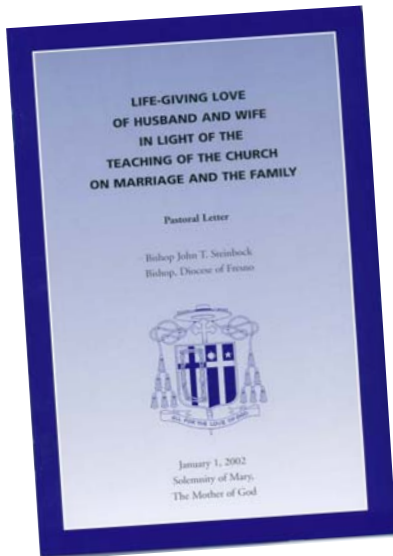
in contact with your teacher. Your NFP teacher is a valuable resource to you. Once you have completed your course of instruction, you might consider your annual call or visit to your NFP teacher to replenish your supplies as an opportunity to review your year of charting, address any changes, review your observational routine, and answer any questions. Think of it along the same lines as your annual visit to your physician, in that it is an opportunity to benefit from the insights of your teacher, an allied health professional. If you are unable to make an in-person annual visit with your NFP teacher, perhaps distance is a factor, then even a phone call to request new materials gives the opportunity

to check in about how things are going. And with today's technology – fax, e-mail, phone calls – there are many creative ways to keep in touch.

I am sure I speak for all NFP teachers when I say I am always glad to hear from my NFP clients, and have the opportunity to catch up with them, personally and professionally! So, C.N., you may find charts and stamps over the internet, but I'd encourage you to give your NFP teacher a call instead. She'll be glad you did!

*Response by Sheila St. John,
Certified Fertility Care
Practitioner in the Monterey
Region since 1982 and
Executive Director of CANFP*

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



Bishop Steinbock's Pastoral Letter *Life Giving Love of Husband and Wife* released in 2002, is available from CANFP for \$3 each, including tax, shipping and handling. It also can be viewed and printed from our website, www.canfp.org.

Church's Teaching cont.

a simply materialistic and individualistic understanding of their own sexual relationship, that they so easily succumb to those same pressures of society that lead to the dissolution of their very marriage bond.

The marriage covenant is a great gift of God. It is sacred and holy. But if the gift of sex is separated from its divine plan to be an expression of total committed self-giving love in the bond of matrimony with an openness to bringing forth new life, the expression of love through sex becomes so easily, even in a good marriage, simply

a means for self-gratification, which can slowly erode a marriage bond. It is that self-gratification which is very much a part of our culture that leads to the destruction of human love and relationship. It is only in seeking God's will and being led by God's very love that has been poured forth into our hearts that our weak and limited human love becomes one with the divine love of the Father and Son poured into our hearts. Natural Family Planning enables a couple to experience and express God's love for one another, which leads to joyful and lasting love.

The CANFP Village

Tara Lutman Agacayak

W

ere we at the rehearsal dinner for my friend's wedding and had just finished our meals when my friend's mother stood up to thank everyone for attending. She looked around the room, filled with friends and relatives, and started to tear up. In reference to the well-known phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child", she thanked all of us for being the "village" in which her daughter was brought up.

unique,

At that point, I also looked around the room and admired all those gathered; grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, childhood and college friends. I realized that our accomplishments are indeed a product of all of those who support us throughout our lives. We do not, and dare I say, cannot do anything completely alone. We rely on our community both small and large to provide the foundation and the support structures that we grow in.

God-given

gifts to

With that in mind, I would like to carry this reference forward and apply it to CANFP. Here we have a "child" in need of care and support, and a village waiting to help raise it. Having recently received a letter from CANFP, I looked at the list of Executive and Advisory Board members listed on the letterhead and noted that the list is quite long and distinguished. What a foundation to build CANFP upon.

contribute

In reading my monthly newsletter, and in talks with the CANFP Executive Director, I also know that the list of members and donors is just as long and distinguished; a tremendous sense of support standing with the Board.

Within this "village" the jobs and tasks are varied, and all are essential to the growth and development of CANFP. As with many things, the more sharing, diversification and back-up available, the smoother things run and the less risk that any job will go without someone to do it. Additionally, every person in the village is skilled in different areas and has unique, God-given gifts to contribute.



To those of you who have given, and are giving your time, talent, and resources to CANFP, I would like to say thank you and God bless you. For those who might be feeling called to provide support to CANFP, but aren't sure how, or are afraid that you won't be able to commit in a satisfactory manner, rest assured that the jobs are varied, time requirements flexible, and

anything you can give is welcome!

When I moved to Turkey, I felt like I was leaving everything important behind. However, I've realized that this village of mine is a global village, and I can both continue to give and receive the support that I need from my community of friends and family. NFP has been such a blessing to my husband and me, and I hate to think what our marriage would be like if we'd never been introduced to it. I think about other couples who might be searching for what NFP has to offer, and I am so thankful that CANFP is working to reach out to them. I am also thankful, that in my own little way as part of the Prayer Team, I can return some of what I have received.

I encourage you to call to mind the blessing that NFP is and has been to you. I invite you to examine the unique gifts that God has given you and see how you can, in our little village, contribute them. CANFP is a wonderful resource that is constantly in need of nurturing of all kinds. I thank all of you who worked before me to ensure that CANFP has been there for my husband and I. I thank all of you who are working now and who will be there in the future to continue to provide the service and outreach that is so important to promoting the respect for life.

CANFP is blessed to benefit from Tara's volunteer contributions to CANFP---all the way from Turkey! Prayer team members receive her faithful and inspiring weekly e-mails, and this is her second contribution to the CANFP NEWS. She and her husband Cihan have honored both of their wedding anniversaries with a donation of thanksgiving to CANFP.

**American Academy of
FertilityCare Professionals
23rd Annual Meeting**

The American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals (AAFCP) will hold its 23RD Annual Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, July 21-24, 2004. The theme of this historic meeting is "Introducing NaProTECHNOLOGY to the World: Medical Science at the Service of the Human Person" and it coincides with the debut of the new medical textbook, *The Medical and Surgical Practice of NaProTECHNOLOGY*. There will also be a pre-conference program on Surgical NaProTECHNOLOGY for health care professionals and FertilityCare Practitioners.

This meeting will be significant for physicians, nurses, hospital administrators, medical and nursing students, bioethicists, clergy, religious, natural family planning teachers of all models, high school teachers, concerned citizens and activists. This historically significant event is for anyone involved with fertility or women's health issues.

For more information contact:

www.naprotechnology.com

or

Margaret Yates, CFCP
Public Relations Committee
24 Terrace Drive
Wilton, ME 04294-4825
(207) 645-3569 W
(207) 645-3762 (H)

International Billings Ovulation Method Conference

Dallas, Texas

November 5 & 6, 2004

Speakers to Include:

Erik Odeblad, MD, PhD

Umea, Sweden

Pilar Vigil, MD

Chile

Marian Corkill

Melbourne, Australia

Gillian Barker

Melbourne, Australia

Physician Seminar

Thursday, November 4

Clergy Seminar

Thursday, November 4

Teacher Trainings

in English/Spanish

November 8 - 11

BOMA-USA

E-mail: boma-usa@msn.com

or 651-699-8139

(Central Time)

Conference Opportunities



**CANFP Dates:
March 19, 2005
March 25, 2006**

Understanding Natural Family Planning:

Theologically, Medically, Practically

Featuring

**Rev. Blaise R. Berg, STL, STD
& Northern California Physicians:**

Mary Davenport, MD

Julian Delgado, MD

George Delgado, MD

John Gisla, MD

Gretchen Marsh, DO

Keith McAfee, MD

Presented by:

**The Respect Life Office
of the Sacramento Diocese**

St. Isidore Parish

Yuba City, CA

November 13, 2004

English and Spanish tracts

Contact Hours for

Physicians and Nurses

For more information contact:

Kathy Conner

Respect Life Coordinator

Diocese of Sacramento

916-733-0140

Los Obispos Hablan De La Enseñanza De La Iglesia Sobre Los Contraceptivos

Por el Obispo John T. Steinbock, Obispo de la Diócesis de Fresno.



El Arzobispo Chaput en la reunión de los Obispos de los Estados Unidos en noviembre del 2003 presentó una solicitud del Comité de Actividades Pro-Vida. El Arzobispo hizo la moción de que “el cuerpo de Obispos apruebe la solicitud del Comité de Actividades Pro-Vida para que procedan con una consulta adecuada de los comités correspondientes hacia el diseño de un documento pastoral acerca de la enseñanza de la Iglesia con respecto a las medidas contraceptivas y su conexión con la cultura de vida.” Después de una discusión muy positiva, principalmente acerca de cuál sería la mejor manera de presentar dicha solicitud, la moción fue irresistiblemente aprobada.

Es

sagrado

y

bendito

La esperanza es de tener un documento breve con un diseño final listo para la reunión de los Obispos en el mes de noviembre del 2004. Este documento imitaría al reciente documento de la conferencia “La Presencia Real de Jesucristo en el Sacramento de la Eucaristía” teniendo también una breve introducción a la enseñanza seguida por preguntas y respuestas.

En su presentación en la Conferencia de los Obispos, el Arzobispo Chaput habló de cómo muchos Obispos están consternados de que la enseñanza de la Iglesia en esta materia se encuentra no solamente con frecuencia ignorada, sino que frecuentemente es presentada en una forma que la gente no

podiera entender claramente esta enseñanza de la Iglesia. La esperanza está en tener un folleto breve y fácil de entender, explicando la enseñanza católica acerca del método de la planificación familiar en una forma positiva y mostrando cómo esta enseñanza está conectada a la tarea de construir una cultura de vida. Este documento debiera presentar esta enseñanza dentro de una visión positiva del matrimonio, de la sexualidad y de respecto por el precioso reglo de la vida humana, tan claramente pronunciado por el Papa Juan Pablo II.

Esto es verdaderamente prometedor para todos aquellos involucrados dentro del ministerio de promoción y enseñanza del método natural de planificación familiar. Agradezco a todos aquellos quienes han sido tan dedicados a este apostolado por todos estos años, y a quienes han tenido que perseverar durante todo este tiempo en ocasiones con muy poco apoyo, especialmente de las mismas fuentes de quienes uno pudiera esperar lo máximo. Finalmente, los Obispos hablarán acerca de esta importante enseñanza de la Iglesia la cual es esencial para proclamar claramente que siempre vamos a promover una cultura de vida en nuestra sociedad, especialmente si esperamos salvar la institución del matrimonio tal y como fue diseñada por Dios.

Cuando este documento sea publicado, ya sea este año en

noviembre o el próximo año, lo importante es que se publique y se haga disponible al pueblo de Dios especialmente en nuestras parroquias. Las parejas casadas están demasiado presionadas por nuestra sociedad para que tengan simplemente un entendimiento materialista e individualista de sus propias relaciones sexuales, que por ello muy fácilmente sucumben en esas mismas presiones de la sociedad que les conducen a la disolución de su propio enlace matrimonial.

La alianza del matrimonio es un regalo de Dios. Es sagrado y bendito. Pero si el don de la sexualidad es separado de su plan divino para ser una expresión de entrega total en el enlace matrimonial encargada de traer una vida nueva, la expresión de amor mediante el sexo pasa a ser un fastidio aún en un buen matrimonio. Es simplemente un medio de auto gratificación, el cual puede corroer lentamente el lazo matrimonial. Es esta auto gratificación la que forma una gran parte de nuestra cultura y que conduce a la destrucción del amor y su relación humana. Es solamente buscando la voluntad de Dios y siendo guiados por su amor derramado dentro de nuestros corazones que nuestro débil y limitado amor humano se hace uno con el divino amor del Padre y del Hijo. El método natural de la planificación familiar capacita a la pareja para experimentar y expresar el amor de Dios del uno por el otro, y que los conduce a un amor duradero y satisfecho.

Clergy Corner - Parish Memberships



our parish
supports
CANFP

Two months ago our parish sponsored a seminar by Christopher West on *Good News About Sex and Marriage* as in the title of his famous purple book. Every couple in our marriage preparation classes must read and discuss West's book with our teachers before receiving the sacrament, and many of them were at the author's presentations. The parish hall was packed for his seminar, and not only with the usual band of "already converted" Catholics. In the weeks that followed, many have told me that Christopher West was instrumental in freeing them from a sexual bondage of one

sort or other, and this freedom led them back to the sacraments. The seminar was money well-spent.

Now what do we do as a follow-up? One necessary means of keeping sexual addictions at bay, and of enabling married couples to love in spirit and truth, is to break that most prevalent of all sexual aberrations, the use of artificial contraceptives. As Christopher West so eloquently taught to our parish, when one severs the link between love and life, one has rendered any authentic understanding of sex and marriage very unlikely. For this reason, our parish supports

CANFP. The contraceptive way of life is as inherently destructive of marriage as it is prevalent. To render it less prevalent and less destructive, pastors must encourage all means of promoting the truth about sex and love.

We hope to work closely with CANFP in promoting this truth on many fronts and we assure the Association of our continuing support.

Father Joseph Illo is Pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Modesto, a CANFP Parish Partner.

Thank you to our Parish Supporters!

Is your parish listed?

Parish Partner \$500

St. Joseph's *Modesto*

Parish Members / Donors \$200

St. Gerard Majella *Los Angeles*
Sacred Heart *Salinas*

Parish Members \$100

Saint Joachim's *Madera*
St. Brigid's *Hanford*
St. Augustine's *Lamont*
St. Paul the Apostle *Coalinga*
San Clemente Mission *Bakersfield*
Newman Center *Chico*
St. John's *Carmichael*
St. Thomas More *Paradise*
Madonna del Sasso *Salinas*
St. Angela's *Pacific Grove*
St. Matthew's *San Mateo*
St. Cecilia's *San Francisco*
St. Brendan's *Los Angeles*
St. Andrew's *Pasadena*
St. Mary's *Sanger*

CANFP would like to partner with *each* of the over 1,000 parishes throughout the state to make California #1 in NFP services, building strong marriages and families.

Please Join the CANFP Team!

If you are a pastor, associate, or parish administrator, we invite you to join these parishes on the CANFP team. We welcome all new parish members who donate \$100 or more with a parish member packet and will list our new parish team members in our Summer *CANFP NEWS*.

We need your help!

Why aren't parishes in your region listed? Maybe no-one has invited them! CANFP is asking all who receive this newsletter to invite five parishes to join the CANFP team. Copy the invitation inserted in this newsletter, add your own personal cover letter, and send to five pastors, following up with a phone call or personal visit. Share how NFP has blessed your marriage, family, and spiritual life, introduce him to CANFP, and invite him to access our services through our website and toll free number. Ask for his support of you and CANFP though a parish membership of \$100.

Will you help?



*CANFP NEWS is edited and published quarterly by the California Association of Natural Family Planning.
Produced by: High Rise Designs 831-402-6227 webmaster@canfp.org www.highrisedesigns.com*

CANFP NEWS

is edited and published by
the California Association
of Natural Family Planning.

To receive future editions
become a **CANFP** member!

E-mail us
info@canfp.org
or call toll-free
1-877-33-CANFP

Annual dues:
\$30 Individual/Family
\$50 Professional/Clergy
\$100 Organization/Parish

Join online at
www.canfp.org
or
Make check payable to
CANFP, and send to
1217 Tyler Street,
Salinas, CA 93906



CANFP NEWS

1217 Tyler St. • Salinas, CA 93906