

# The Diocese of San Bernardino Invites YOU!

Marie Widmann



Life has become so very complicated these days. Most of us are people of good will trying to do the right thing day by day. But we're not always clear on what the right thing to do is. Perhaps some of these situations remind you of your own experiences or those of people you care about:

## Good News of Happiness

*Andrew and Kathy*, starry eyed and so in-love, are participating in their parish **Marriage Preparation Class**. They share with their Facilitators that they want to be responsible and so are using condoms and the Pill during their engagement, since they want to save the beauty of having babies until after marriage.

*Patricia and Michael* are married and have had several children. As they prepare to baptize their third baby they ask the counsel of their **Baptism Preparation Coordinator**: should Mike have a vasectomy or would it be better if Pat tied her tubes?

*Pedro and Maria* have longed for a family for years but have been unable to conceive. The stress is hurting their marriage and during counseling sessions with their **Parish Priest** they wonder if in vitro fertilization might save them from divorce?

*Diana and Richard* are looking for an alternative to the chemicals and gadgets associated with artificial contraceptives and so they turn to their **Deacon and his wife**: do they know what Natural Family Planning involves and does it really work?

*YOU are invited to share the Good News! Married Love and the Gift of Life April 11-12 for more info: [www.canfp.org](http://www.canfp.org) 1-877-33-CANFP*

If a friend, family member or parishioner came to you in a situation such as this, would you know how to advise them? You would certainly want to greet them with compassion and practical help. **Would you know what our Catholic Faith has to offer?** And why the Church teaches what it does?

It is unfortunate but true, that most Catholics do NOT know what the Church teaches about Married Love and the Gift of Life, even many Ministry Leaders, Priests, Deacons, and Religious. **We don't know because no one ever taught us!** How can we as Church Leaders address the needs of those we are responsible to serve?

As the Director of the Natural Family Planning Ministry for the Diocese of San Bernardino I have been looking forward to the

**Married Love and the Gift of Life Conference** for a very long time and I hope and pray that YOU will join us April 11 & 12! I promise that these two days will enrich your personal life and will enhance your outreach to others.

PLEASE will you share this Good News with friends, family and fellow Leaders in Ministry? Will you invite them to attend the Marriage and the Gift of Life Conference with you, so that their **Lives may be blessed with the Good News of Happiness, Health and Holiness for Marriage?** Will you reach out to volunteers and staff from your Parish and Diocese: to your Priests, Deacons, Religious and those involved in preparation for Marriage, Baptism, Faith Formation and RCIA, so that they in turn can share the teachings of our Faith with the many others they work with?

God bless you for spreading the Good News of the **Married Love and the Gift of Life Conference!**

*Marie Widmann is the Director of Pro Life Catholic Ministries for the Diocese of San Bernardino*

## Health and Holiness for Marriage