

Building a *Culture of Life* in Women's Health Care



A newsletter of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction

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Pope Paul VI Institute Travels to Mexico City, Brings Hope

THIS PAST FALL, Dr. Hilgers and a team of faculty traveled to Mexico City to present the first of a two-phase educational program in the Creighton Model **FertilityCare System** and **NaProTECHNOLOGY**. A total of 10 students, five of whom are doctors, are enrolled in the program, representing the countries of Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Mexico.

The Mexico City Program will meet the growing interest in these methods throughout Latin America. According to Certified Fertility Care Educator Jeanice Vinduska, who assisted with the program, Latin America is an area with great potential for the Institute. "There is such a desperate need for the **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare System** in Latin America where there are so many couples suffering from infertility," she says. "**NaProTECHNOLOGY** brings them hope."

The trip was filled with highlights. In addition to the beautiful weather, opening mass was said by Bishop Carlos Briseno of Mexico City followed by a reception attended by the students and their families. While the first phase of the program concluded on December 7, several of the faculty members extended



Dr. Hilgers and his team gathered with students in Mexico City in Dec. 2013 to bring the Creighton Model **FertilityCare System** and **NaProTECHNOLOGY** to Latin America.

their trip to attend mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The final phase of the program will take place May 19–24 in Mexico City, but according to Jeanice Vinduska, the work in Latin America is far from over. "Bishops and priests throughout Latin America want the Creighton Model and **NaProTECHNOLOGY**. This program is only the beginning."

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I AM PLEASED to present to you the enclosed Spring 2014 issue of the *Building a Culture of Life in Women's Health Care* Newsletter. There is so much going on at the Pope Paul VI Institute, and unfortunately we can only cover so much in our newsletter. Most exciting, perhaps, is the wonderful publicity we have received through EWTN. A documentary featuring the Institute and its history, entitled *Voices in the Desert*, received multiple airings this past January and February. This publicity is so important to our mission as it helps to counter the destructive messages of a mainstream media

that readily promote a culture of death. We are so proud of our work here at the Pope Paul VI Institute. Not only do we offer services that always promote life, but we offer services that are medically- and scientifically-proven to be superior to contraception, abortion, sterility, and in-vitro fertilization. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and be sure to visit our website where we have a multitude of information about our work.



For the Study of Human Reproduction

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Education program
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Center for NaProEthics
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Publications
(402) 505-8942

Institute advancement
and donations, (402) 505-8949

For appointments to learn the
Creighton Model System
(402) 392-0842

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Love and Life
Unlimited Conference**
Omaha, Neb. USA
April 7-11, 2014

Education Phase II
Omaha, Neb. USA
April 11-18, 2015

Developer's Pre-Conference
July 8, 2014
Stratford-Upon-Avon, UK
The first-ever joint presentation
of all four co-developers of the
Creighton Model FertilityCare
System™

Learn more online
popepaulvi.com/events



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EWTN Features Pope Paul VI Institute Documentary, *Voices in the Desert*

VOICES IN THE DESERT, a compelling documentary chronicling the Pope Paul VI Institute, debuted on EWTN this past January. The documentary was produced by SaintMax Worldwide, a Catholic media company named after the 20th century saint, Maximillian Kolbe. *Voices in the Desert* explores the Institute's formation and how the prophetic words of Pope Paul VI's *Human Vitae* continue to inspire the Institute's work.



Chuck Weber

SaintMax Worldwide's Executive Director, Chuck Weber, worked closely with the Institute in developing the documentary, an idea that had been years in the making.

"The idea of a full-length documentary has been a topic of discussion between Dr. Hilgers and me for many years, and fortunately a generous gift was provided to make this dream a reality."

In creating the documentary, Weber sought to cast the Institute in historical terms, making sure it had the feel of a news documentary complete with archival footage of historical events. "I wanted a documentary that traces two distinct paths," Weber says of *Voices*. "One path covering the secular world where artificial birth control and abortion were introduced and became acceptable mainstream medical practices, while at the other end of the cultural spectrum, Mother Catholic Church was warning the world that these new practices were harmful to women, children and couples."

The documentary pays homage to the late Pope's prophetic words amidst a culture that was slow to listen. "The exception, of course, was Pope Paul VI and Tom and Sue Hilgers and their colleagues," said Weber. "Now, more than four decades after the sexual revolution and the release of *Humanae Vitae*, we are seeing a new way of thinking — a new paradigm — of healthcare for women and couples, due to the hard work of the Pope Paul VI Institute."

According to Weber, the documentary's producer, working with the Institute and its staff was a rewarding experience. "Trained as a news journalist and having worked in that field, I'm always looking for that story that no one else has told about people, events and discoveries. That is why this project was so intriguing. There is this whole world of medically and ethically superior women's healthcare out there that so few people know about. As a husband, but also the father of three beautiful daughters, I have a vested interest in their health and well-being. So I tried to write and produce this documentary with them in mind, since they represent a key audience we want to reach."



Voices in the Desert tells the story of the Pope Paul VI Institute and its role in women's reproductive health care.



Get your copy today!

Voices in the Desert is now available on DVD!
Visit popepaulvi.com/voicesinthedesert

Newest JPII Fellow, Dr. Steve Hilgers, Embraces the Family Mission

EACH YEAR, THE JOHN PAUL II FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM provides the opportunity for promising OB/GYNs to receive training in the medical and surgical applications of **NaProTECHNOLOGY**. During 2013–14, the Institute will welcome three new fellows into the program, but for one of these doctors, an orientation to the Institute is not necessary.

Dr. Steve Hilgers, son of Pope Paul VI Institute founders, Dr. Thomas Hilgers and wife Sue Hilgers, is one of three JPII fellows accepted for the current year. Steve joins the Institute after working at the Texas Medical Center, the world's largest medical facility, where he completed both medical school and his residency.

The opportunity to perform a fellowship at the Institute allows him to share in his father's work. From an early age, Steve recognized the Institute's work as more than just medical practice. "Even at an early age, I saw the work my dad was doing here as such an important vocation ... a vocation serving families and this certainly planted 'seeds'."

Family is a driving force both in Dr. Steve Hilgers' work, as described, but also in his personal life. When he is not working with patients, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Laura, and his two daughters, Abigail (3) and Anna Claire (1). In addition to being a physician, Dr. Hilgers is also an attorney who earned his juris doctor from Southern Methodist University.

One of the more rewarding experiences to occur



Father and son — Dr. Thomas Hilgers and Dr. Steve Hilgers.

during his time at the Institute thus far has been the opportunity to operate alongside his father, an experience that has been eye-opening for Steve. "I have always known my father was a good surgeon. But having the opportunity to work beside him has deepened my appreciation for not only his surgical skills, which are fantastic, but, even more so, his tremendous concern and advocacy for his patients."

"It's been a long road to get here but as I look back, I have always been compelled by the opportunity to help families. To be able to work with my father and help grow the mission here has indeed been a wonderful experience that will no doubt help me to become a doctor in the mold of my father."

A Gift in Your Will: Getting Started

WE HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER INCLUDING A GIFT to Pope Paul VI Institute in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, this type of gift offers these main benefits:

- **Simplicity.** A few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed: "I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Pope Paul VI Institute [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."
- **Flexibility.** Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.
- **Versatility.** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money or make the gift contingent on certain events.
- **Tax Relief.** If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

How It Works

To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust. Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate. Or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, Pope Paul VI Institute receives your gift.

Putting Your Family First

When planning a future gift, it's sometimes difficult to determine what size donation will make sense. Including a bequest of a *percentage of your estate* ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how your estate's value fluctuates over the years.

We Can Help

Contact Maureen Karpf at (402) 505-8945 about naming Pope Paul VI Institute in your will or living trust. We're happy to help without obligation.

Medical Technologist Jan McAlpine



Jan McAlpine

AS A MEDICAL FACILITY AND A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, the Pope Paul VI Institute is comprised of many important pieces, each of which play an integral part in supporting the Institute and its mission to create a culture of life in women's reproductive health care. This is especially true for the Institute's

in-house medical laboratory supervised by Medical Technologist, Jan McAlpine.

Jan joined the Institute more than 10 years ago after relocating to Omaha with her family from Sioux City where she worked at Mercy Hospital. The opportunity to work for the Institute has been a rewarding experience according to Jan. "From praying with the patient care staff each morning to attending mass in the chapel,

I really value the opportunity to practice my faith while using my God-given gifts to serve others."

Under Jan's supervision, the lab provides services to Institute staff but also serves as a reference lab with specimens shipped into the lab on a daily basis. Since she arrived at the Institute more than a decade ago, the number of specimens sent to the lab has nearly doubled. Despite the increased demand for the lab and its services, Jan finds peace knowing that her work is based on *Humanae Vitae* and supports the Institute's commitment to building a culture of life.

"Working in the lab, I do not have that interaction with patients, but it is their needs that challenge me every day to do the best I can to make sure their needs are met. The Institute has many parts and I am just so proud to be one piece of the puzzle here at Pope Paul."

Will you help us?

As a not-for-profit organization, the Pope Paul VI Institute relies on the generosity of donors who share the Institute's commitment to building a culture of life. Making a gift to the Institute is easy. You can use enclosed envelope to mail in your donation, or you can visit us at www.popepaulvi.com/support, where we have information on a variety of gift and pledge options, including planned gifts. By remembering the Pope Paul VI Institute in your will, you can make a lasting contribution that directly supports life.