

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

Read the story of the
DeLuca family on page 3



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

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Archbishop Emeritus Curtiss Continues Long-Time Support for Institute as Spiritual Director

THE POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE is on the front lines in the fight against a culture of death that is continuing to pervade every nation and community across the globe. Fortunately, the Institute is well-supported in this fight, and among its strongest supporters is Archbishop Emeritus Elden F. Curtiss, former Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Institute's current Spiritual Director.

In this role, Archbishop Emeritus Curtiss celebrates mass several times each month in the Institute's Chapel of the Holy Family and also helped to develop the Institute's impressive Bishops Advisory Board. The Board, which is comprised of cardinals and bishops from throughout the world, including Cardinals Timothy Dolan and Raymond Burke, as well as Archbishops Samuel Aquila and George Lucas amongst others, provides spiritual support to the Institute and its unique mission.

For Curtiss, serving as the Institute's Spiritual Director is an extension of his longtime support for the Institute, which dates back to his time serving as Bishop for the Diocese of Helena, Montana.

"I received a letter from Pope Paul VI Institute in the early 1980s, and here was this organization that was truly responding to Pope Paul VI's *Humanae Vitae* and its appeal to medical professionals," Curtiss recounts. "The Institute and its mission had tremendous importance, and this was immediately apparent to me."

After he was named Archbishop of Omaha in 1993 by Saint John Paul the Great, his support of the Institute would continue. It was during his time as Archbishop

when Curtiss received further confirmation of the Institute's unique contribution.

"Pope John Paul told me that the Institute gave him 'great hope for the future,'" says Curtiss. "While I knew the Institute was doing great work, to hear it directly from the Holy Father was special."

The future of the Institute and its mission is indeed cause for hope, according to Curtiss.

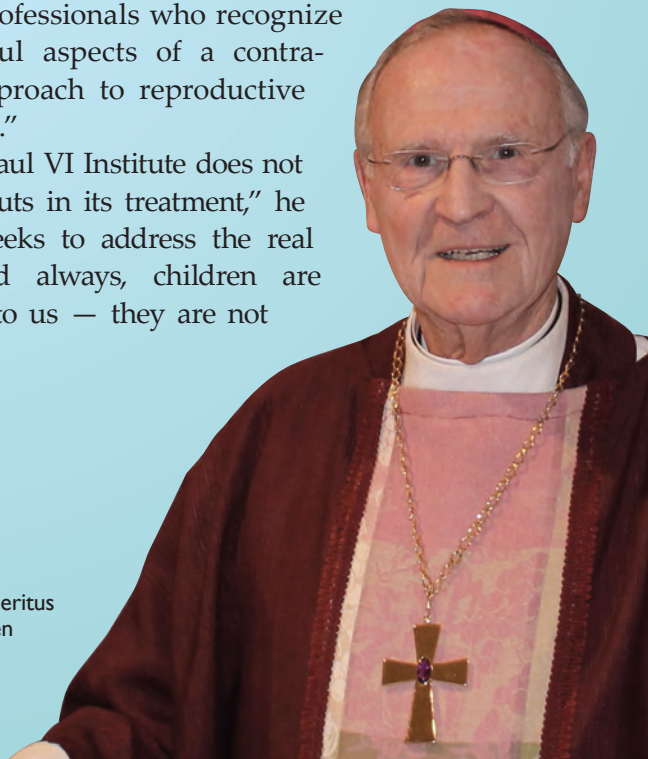
"It did not have a lot of support in the beginning, but Dr. Thomas Hilgers' groundbreaking research has not only proven itself effective in pinpointing fertility cycles, but it is

also gaining acceptance amongst young medical professionals who recognize the harmful aspects of a contraceptive approach to reproductive health care."

"Pope Paul VI Institute does not take shortcuts in its treatment," he says. "It seeks to address the real causes and always, children are important to us — they are not secondary."

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Archbishop Emeritus
of Omaha, Elden
Francis Curtiss





For the Study of Human
Reproduction

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Pam at the end of the seventh
Educational Phase in 1984.

Pam Yaksich Finds Fulfillment and Faith at Pope Paul VI Institute

FOR LONGTIME POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE EMPLOYEE PAM YAKSICH, working at the Pope Paul VI Institute for the better part of the past 30 years has had a tremendous impact, both professionally and spiritually.

After having graduated from Creighton University in Omaha with a degree in Biology in 1984, Pam Yaksich was attending a banquet where she heard a young Doctor discuss his pro-life research. As a scientist and a person of faith, Pam was intrigued.

"I didn't even know that there *was* such a thing," Pam recounts. "But I knew I had to find out more."

Shortly thereafter, she reached out to the young Doctor, Thomas Hilgers, who would eventually hire her as a research assistant first at the former St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, a role she would maintain when the Pope Paul VI Institute opened its doors in the fall of 1985.

"It was so exciting to work with Dr. Hilgers back then, and his approach was so visionary," she says.

In 1993, Pam left the Institute to accept a job as a science teacher at a Lutheran High School where she later became its principal. Twelve years later, in 2007, she again reached out to Dr. Hilgers who was in search of an executive assistant, a role that includes a range of responsibilities from human resources, to credentialing for the Institute's doctors, to some building administration.

Having been with the Institute in its early days, Pam has seen some dramatic changes at the Institute since it all began 30 years ago.

She shares, "In our early days, our education programs would attract about 20 students, and we were excited if even one of those attendees was a physician. Now, our education programs have up to 100 per class, and it is not unusual for half of them to be doctors."

One of the most incredible changes Pam has witnessed while working at the Pope Paul VI Institute is her own personal conversion to Catholicism. A former Lutheran, Pam cites the Institute and its day-to-day witness as the impetus for her conversion.

"When I first started here, I had a tremendous appreciation for the fact that Pope Paul VI Institute did not run from its Christian values," she recalls. "And I saw the way the Institute treats its patients, and the courage in practicing its faith holistically in the marketplace. I started attending mass in the chapel and eventually felt that heartfelt call to convert."

As for the young Doctor whose research compelled her to seek employment with the Institute?

"He's the real deal," she says. "Over the past 30 years, he has had a lot of reasons to give up ... being a pioneer is never easy, but I have seen the fruits of his faithfulness and hard work firsthand and, truly, to do what he has done here is amazing."



Pope Paul VI Institute Is Only Choice for Hope and Dan DeLuca

LIKE MANY COUPLES, when Hope and Dan DeLuca had trouble conceiving, they found true healing at the Pope Paul VI Institute, but their need for healing did not end there.

“We married in 2004 and just could not conceive,” says Hope. “Our doctor at the time wanted to prescribe birth control, which I never really understood because we were trying to have children.”

It was then that they turned to the Pope Paul VI Institute and Dr. Thomas Hilgers who diagnosed the root cause of the infertility, an extreme case of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome. Following an ovarian wedge resection surgery, three years later, the DeLucas were expecting their first child in 2010.

“We chose to go with another doctor at the time to handle the pregnancy — not because we were not happy with the Pope Paul VI Institute, but because of our insurance coverage,” Hope said. “We thought that once we became pregnant, the challenges were over.”

However, an undiagnosed uterine infection posed a real threat of miscarriage and ultimately caused their son to be born premature at 25 weeks. He spent four months in the neonatal intensive care unit, underwent four surgeries, was ventilated for over two months, and suffered brain hemorrhages and a perforated bowel.

After the complications with their first pregnancy, the DeLucas again sought the services of the Pope Paul VI Institute to help conceive their second child. This time, however, they also turned to the Institute to handle the pregnancy: a pregnancy that bore some resemblance to



Hope and Dan DeLuca with their three boys.

the first when Hope again presented with symptoms of a uterine infection.

“I had symptoms at 10 weeks and again at 26 weeks, but Dr. Hilgers and Dr. [Kristina] Pakiz knew exactly what to do,” Hope recalls. “Two rounds of IV antibiotics relieved the symptoms, and we went the full term.”

Their third pregnancy also presented similar symptoms, but again Pope Paul VI Institute was able to address the infection.

“I get teary-eyed just thinking of the Pope Paul VI Institute,” says Hope. “When we finally got pregnant, we thought we were in the clear, but we never really were. We should have stuck with the Pope Paul VI Institute because they know what they are doing.”

Turning Your Good Intentions into Action

MOST PEOPLE LIKE YOU have good intentions to do something for others. But the biggest problem is to implement those intentions and turn them into action. Admittedly, we tend to procrastinate, sometimes putting something off until it's too late.

This often happens with a charitable gift. Undoubtedly you are aware of our continuing financial needs, but for one reason or another you put off making a gift.

It would be a simple matter to include a bequest to the Pope Paul VI Institute directly in your will. To expedite your good intentions, here are recommended clauses for making an unrestricted bequest to us:

“I give to the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction the sum of \$_____ or x% of the residue of my estate free of all duties and deductions to be used for its general purposes. The receipt of an authorized officer of the Pope Paul VI Institute shall be deemed proof of payment.”

Tax ID #: 36-3313152.

Address: 6901 Mercy Rd., Omaha, NE 68106.

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.

**Always consult your attorney for proper legal advice.*



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*Building a culture of life
in women's health care*

Message from the Director

This year, the Pope Paul VI Institute celebrates its 30-year anniversary. For three decades, we have been diligently building a culture of life in women's reproductive health care. Looking back, it's really amazing how much we have grown since 1985. I recall vividly when we first opened our doors at our Mercy Road headquarters, where we remain situated today. At the time, we had a smaller staff and were in our infancy as an organization. To make ends meet, we rented out much of our building to other tenants. Eventually, however, as the Institute grew, we slowly began to take over — office by office — the entire building. For a number of years, we have been beyond capacity, and we are now making plans for expansion so we can meet the growing need for our services. On behalf of the Pope Paul VI Institute, I can't thank you enough for your spiritual and financial support through the years. We have no doubt been abundantly blessed with loyal supporters — patients and former patients, dedicated employees, supportive clergy, and faithful donors. It's been a pleasure sharing in the many struggles and achievements we have encountered these past 30 years. Truly, we would not be here today without you. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Building a Culture of Life Newsletter, and I look forward to sharing some additional reflections with you throughout this benchmark year.

Thomas W. Hayes, MD

