



Supporting a pastoral commitment to a culture of life in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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Marriage, The Family, and Human Sexuality—A Seminary Program about FertilityCare™ (PART I)

K. Diane Daly, RN, CFCE

Excerpted from a MS PowerPoint presentation given at the AAFCP 27th Annual Meeting, “Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae & 30 Years of Education Support from Creighton University School of Medicine”—June 11-14, 2008—Augustinian Conference Center, Rome, Italy (Visit www.popepaulvi.com/connect.htm for both installments). Presentation given by K. Diane Daly, RN, CFCE (Part I) and Father Edward Richard, MD, ThM, JD (Part II)

Much has been accomplished in over 31 years of providing **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System** (which assists couples in the natural regulation of birth—both to avoid and to achieve pregnancy) and the tremendous woman’s health service called **NaProTECHNOLOGY** (which is in keeping with God’s plan for the dignity of the woman, the couple, and the unborn child). One of the crucial needs being met in the past ten years is a more thorough preparation for clergy to provide spiritual support for clients and providers. Through education in the Theology of the Body, we have moved from a time when couples struggled to understand the Church’s teaching, to a time when specialized help is available in the spiritual areas of their sexuality.

Now there is a new level of confidence in referring clients for guidance in the spiritual aspects of sexuality through the education of priests, seminarians and Catholic leaders, in the Love and Life Unlimited program offered through the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction.

At the 25th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* celebration in Omaha, Nebraska in 1993, Fr. Lawrence Brennan, the academic dean of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, suggested that the practical application of the Church’s teaching about the natural regulation of birth and *Theology of the Body* needed to be more fully integrated within the seminary curriculum. He wanted a more comprehensive and systematic approach.

In 1997, Fr. Edward Richard accepted my invitation to attend the Love and Life Unlimited program in Omaha, Nebraska, and, with Fr. Brennan, implemented this course in the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. My role was to secure Dr. Hilgers’ approval, to coordinate the efforts of the seminary in blending the curriculum of the Love and Life Unlimited course from the Pope Paul VI Institute with a moral theology course at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, and to serve as the **CREIGHTON MODEL System** faculty and coordinator for the course.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in cooperation with the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction has responded to this urgent need of the Church by offering this full semester program now during the third year theology course at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Thousands of souls will be touched through these seminarians. It is a privilege to be involved in their formation as priests.

Within the course, *Marriage, the Family and Human Sexuality*, the theology of Christ’s teaching through the Church (provided by moral theologians)—beginning with Genesis, Scripture and Church documents—is followed by classes directly related to **FertilityCare™** (provided by certified **FertilityCare™** educators practitioners, and medical consultants). The current schedule includes topics such as introduction to the **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System**, male and female anatomy and physiology, artificial methods of contraception, social aspects of abortion, effects of contraception and STDs, chastity education, new science of **NaProTECHNOLOGY**, SPICE (spiritual, physical, intellectual, communicative/creative, emotional) aspects of sexuality, panel discussions with **FertilityCare™ Practitioners** and couples, overviews of other methods of NFP, and establishing a **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™** program in a diocese.

There have been 138 seminarians who have taken the *Marriage, the Family and Human Sexuality* course from 26 dioceses throughout the USA and even Belize.

Pre-course and post-course surveys show a statistically significant change from an appreciation and acceptance of the Church teaching to a deeper understanding of the impact the Fertility Care approach has for the couple, the unborn child and the family. A group of priests surveyed one to four years after completing the course expressed an appreciation and strong application of the teaching within their actual priestly ministry.

Outstanding comments (below) from past seminarians reflect a confidence in proclaiming the Church’s teaching and clearly an affirmation of their choice for celibacy. They show a greater understanding of a healthy alternative to the culture of death, of the meaning of sexuality, of the role of contraception in our culture, and of the dignity of the human person.

“The combination of Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body and the Creighton Model helped me to have a deeper appreciation of the sacrament of marriage and the complementarities of the married and celibate state in proclaiming the Gospel of Life.”

“I hope there comes a day where every seminarian is prepared to help in fulfilling this vital need of the church. The Theology of the Body and Natural Family Planning are powerful tools in helping

to turn the tide of the culture of death and building a new culture of life.”

“Entering into the family and sexuality course I was uncertain about what to believe about the Church’s teaching regarding sexual morality and family. For years I had been told by Catholic priests, teachers, parents, and friends that Natural Family Planning doesn’t really work and that the Church is wrong or at least confused about the “reality” of marriage and family. The course turned my world upside down... Because of the personal conversional experienced while in the course, I have decided to focus my graduate studies and M.A. thesis on NFP.”

Part of the final exam for the seminarians is their presentation of a homily. The homilies are related to scripture readings. Seminarians are instructed to include information about the Church’s teachings on sexuality, *Humanae Vitae*, the **CREIGHTON MODEL of FertilityCare™** services, **NaProTECHNOLOGY**, and the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction. These homilies are outstanding and reflect a deep understanding of how this course material will apply to couples in their future congregations. The homilies have been so brilliant that we have developed an annual homily contest through the Office of Natural Family Planning in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri, awarding the winning seminarian with a check, a certificate of award, and a dinner with the panel of judges. Some homilies have been circulated to our priests of the St. Louis Archdiocese. Samplings of these winning homilies are on our Archdiocesan web site (www.stlouisnfp.org).

On completion of the course, a joint certificate is awarded from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction.

The course has now expanded beyond Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, has offered the program for four years preparing 56 seminarians with the Love and Life Unlimited course integrated into their curriculum. In 2007, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, began offering the course and 22 men were taught. The dream is that this course will be implemented in every seminary in the United States and internationally. *continued on next page*

Comments from Priests who have Completed the Program

“The NFP information and training I received has been excellent and beneficial for me and the couples that I have worked with. One of the greatest challenges is finding doctors or couples who will be educated to serve as practitioners and medical consultants for the method and help couples to benefit from the Creighton Model of NFP. I would be very disappointed if this training did not continue in the seminary.”

— A priest from North Dakota

“The #1 result of the NFP class was that it gave me the courage to stand up and preach the good news of the Theology of the Body as an urgent mystical, liturgical reality on top of its moral necessity. Mostly the parishioners quickly took it on board—loads of Baptisms... having the courage to speak up made practicing couples come forward to help engaged couples.”

— A priest from Tennessee

“I’d say that the formation from the class has been most useful in preaching. I find that very few couples are open to dialogue about their sexuality, let alone fertility. At the same time, every time I have preached on anything remotely close to a positive view on human sexuality/human reproduction, there has been a resounding call for more. Thank you for all that you are doing.”

— A priest from Kansas

“Peace! I am very grateful, not only to Kenrick for helping me to become a priest of Jesus Christ, but also to you and Paul VI Institute for helping us to be all the better in the Gospel of Life. When asking the ‘pre-nuptial investigation’ questions of a couple of sitting in the hot tub at the health club, my Kenrick-Paul VI training is a blessing of both competence and confidence. Thank you... God bless you in your ministry.”

— A priest from Tennessee



K. Diane Daly, RN, CFCE—Part I

Co-developer of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System. Director of Office of Natural Family Planning and co-director of St. John’s Mercy Department of FertilityCare™ Services, St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Certified FertilityCare™ Educator.

The Reverend Edward Richard, JD, MS—Part II

Dean of Students, Kenrick Seminary. Developer of one-semester course for seminarians in Creighton Model, NaProTechnology, and Theology of the Body. Member of board of directors of FertilityCare™ Centers of America.



Pope Paul VI Institute
For the Study of Human Reproduction



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to a culture of life in the Archdiocese of Omaha

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Helping Priests Respond To Medical and Moral Challenges

In this issue: "Marriage, The Family, and Human Sexuality"—

A Seminary Program about FertilityCare™ by K. Diane Daly and The Rev. Edward Richard

The Home of FertilityCare™ and NaProTECHNOLOGY™

Building a Culture of Life in Women's Health Care

Lord, let my faith be joyful
and let it penetrate my thought,
my way of judging Divine and human things.
Lord, let my faith be joyful
and give peace and gladness to my spirit
and dispose it for prayer with God
and conversation with men,
so that the inner bliss of its fortunate possession
may shine forth in sacred and secular conversation.
Lord, let my faith be humble
and not presume to be based on the experience
of my thought and of my feelings;
but, let it surrender to the testimony of the Holy Spirit,
and not have any better guarantee than in
docility to Tradition and to the
authority of the magisterium of the Holy Church.

— Pope Paul VI

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(314) 792-6107 or richard@kentrick.edu

Direct all other questions to:
Sue Hilgers: (402) 390-6600 ext. 149 or suehilg@aol.com.

Chapel of the Holy Family
Open business days, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. Mondays and 1st/3rd Fridays
8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays

More resources can be found on our web sites:
www.popepaulvi.com
www.creightonmodel.com
www.naprotechnology.com

Access this newsletter online at
www.popepaulvi.com/connect.htm

- FertilityCare™ Center of Omaha**
To learn the Creighton Model FertilityCare System
(402) 392-0842 or fcco@popepaulvi.com
Co-directors: Jeanice Winduska, Sue Elser
- National Center for Women's Health**
For clinic questions:
(402) 390-6600
Linda Cady (Dr. Hilgers' head nurse)
- Creighton Model FertilityCare**
For FertilityCare provider education:
(402) 390-9168 or education@popepaulvi.com
Alice Sales
- Center for NaProEthics**
For ethics questions and consults:
(402) 390-0812 or ethics@popepaulvi.com
Sr. Renee Mirkes, OSF, PhD

Item	Before the Course	After the Course	Statistical Significance
1. The topic of life is relevant to my vocation.	9.1	9.5	< .0001*
2. I have an understanding of the Church's teaching regarding life.	6.6	9.0	< .0001*
3. I know the difference between life and abortion.	4.6	8.0	< .0001*
4. I know the difference between life and abortion.	8.5	9.5	< .02*
5. I know the difference between life and abortion.	7.0	8.9	< .005*
6. I know the difference between life and abortion.	7.0	9.1	< .001*
7. I have an understanding of the Church's teaching regarding life.	7.6	9.0	< .005*

Item	Average Score
1. The topic of life is relevant to my vocation.	9.1
2. I can express the Church's teaching regarding life to others.	9.5
3. I know the difference between life and abortion.	9.7
4. I know the difference between life and abortion.	9.1
5. I have confidence in speaking the truth regarding life and abortion.	8.2

As a result of this course in the seminary, FertilityCare™ Practitioners can develop referral lists for spiritual assistance for their clients while being confident that these graduates—now priests—have a complete understanding necessary to assist couples who are confused or may have difficult situations. Priests can refer women and couples to practitioners who are well-equipped to deal with difficult cases...Priests can teach the theology of marriage and Theology of the Body to the engaged, with referral to CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System as one of the practical applications of that teaching.

Our hope is to expand to every seminary in the United States and internationally. In that way, every priest and FertilityCare™ Practitioner can be confident members of a team to help couples fulfill God's plan for married love.

During the Kenrick-Glennon course about five years ago, a group of seminarians in the Pro-Life Club offered to pray for couples with infertility. Infertile couples are offered the opportunity to be prayed for by name or anonymously if they choose. Cards are given to the infertile couples during follow-up or during infertility support group meetings. These cards are returned to the Pro-Life Club at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The cards are distributed to seminarians who pray for the couple, and the couples often in turn pray for the seminarians. Special relationships have developed...

[Many families] have benefited from seminarians' prayers and priests' knowledge acquired from the seminary course. We can only imagine the thousands of couples and families who may never have been enlightened with this knowledge and support, and now benefit from the ministry of 210 men who have been taught and inspired through these seminary courses. *Just imagine what would happen if this course would be taught in every seminary in the world!*