



FALL 2009 • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3

The Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Course: Marriage, The Family, and Human Sexuality

Course Description: An investigation of authentic Catholic thought on the family and human sexuality, and an introduction to Natural Family Planning for clergy. Envisioned outcomes: a familiarity with the anatomy, physiology, and theology of the body in the context of conjugal love; a knowledge and understanding of the virtues of family life and sexuality as found in Tradition and Scripture, and as presented in the teaching documents of the Church; an understanding of the relationship between life and love in sexuality and marriage, with special emphasis on the role of the modern science of Natural Family Planning in the maintenance of the conjugal relationship. This course is conducted in collaboration with the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction, Omaha, Nebraska, the leading center for the scientific study of NFP in the United States. Medical consultants, educators, and practitioners of Natural Family Planning participate in the presentation of materials. At the conclusion of the course, students will receive a certificate issued jointly by Kenrick School of Theology and the Pope Paul VI Institute, Omaha. Course format: lecture and discussion.

For the past five years I have served as the primary instructor for the Marriage, Family, and Sexuality course (MTH 513) taught each year at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. The course, taught in conjunction with the Department of FertilityCare™ Services at St. John's Mercy Medical Center, provides an amazingly solid foundation for the seminarians who will soon begin their priestly ministry. The course is so effective because it demonstrates the natural alliance that exists between reason and faith in the area of marriage and human sexuality. At Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, candidates for the priesthood are taught the unbroken tradition and the unparalleled beauty of the Catholic Church's understanding of the human person, the self-giving of spouses, and the gift of procreation. Through the contribution of the Department of FertilityCare™ Services at St. John's Mercy Medical Center, seminarians also learn that modern, scientifically-based methods of fertility care, and in particular **NaProTECHNOLOGY**, offer couples a safe, effective, and morally good method to responsibly plan their families. This dual approach properly arms seminarians with the truth of the Church's teaching on sexual morality and the dignity of the human person, while at the same time providing them with the means to intelligently discuss moral methods of family planning to a culture that pays great heed to arguments grounded in science. ☺

The Rev. Donald E. Henke, DThM

Academic dean and assistant professor of moral theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Fr. Henke has a BA from Saint Louis University, an STB from Pontificia Universita Gregoriana in Rome, and both an STL and DThM from Academia Alfonsiana in Rome.



Seminaries with the Course in Conjunction with Pope Paul VI Institute

Pontifical College of Josephinum (since 2003)
PA883 Pastoral Care of Marriages

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary (since 2007)
MTH701 Sexuality and Marriage in Catholic Teaching

Love & Life Unlimited Conference

*Ponder, Promote & Proclaim the Catholic Vision of Reproductive Health Care
The Program Model for "Marriage, The Family, and Human Sexuality"*

This four-day program is offered in April and October and is designed for priests, deacons, religious, family life directors, NFP coordinators, and interested laity. It includes an in-depth study of Catholic teachings (such as *Humanae Vitae*, *Evangelium Vitae*, the marriage of wisdom and science, the genius of woman and *Mulieris Dignitatem*, and the Theology of the Body) in conjunction with practical applications of these teachings—the **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System** and **NaProTECHNOLOGY**. For more: <http://www.popepaulvi.com/education.htm>



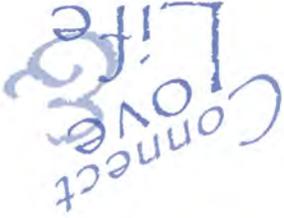
Pope Paul VI Institute
For the Study of Human Reproduction

“Truth must be allowed to grow...and faith needs to be nurtured.” I spoke these words to those at the Omaha Archdiocesan 1987 Winter Clergy Conference in Norfolk, Nebraska. The leadership of the Church is important—the Church has so much good to offer to men and women and children; to doctors and scientists and practitioners who serve them; to married people and engaged couples; to young people; to people who are searching; and to people who are hurting. That good will never be observed unless the truth is shared with them. Therefore, priests must be called upon to share the Church's wisdom and, to do so, they need to be educated in and understand the fundamental truths relating to the theology of the human body. For example, in a past issue of *Connect*, Fr. David Konderla showed the extremely important role of the priest in sharing the truths relating to marriage and human sexuality in his discussion on co-habitation. He wrote, “Of course, the more bishops and priests preach about and publicize the danger of co-habitation, the more it will help single Catholics avoid making the wrong decision to co-habitate in the first place.” As I have said before, guidance of priests in the areas of marriage, family, and human sexuality serves couples and also supports our efforts to challenge flawed views of human sexuality. It is through the combined efforts of priest, practitioner, and physician that we can serve not only engaged couples but all married couples and families. Therefore, a priest needs to be well-formed in the Catholic teachings on authentic human sexuality and marriage. Fr. Edward Richard noted in his article (Vol. 4, No. 2), “Therefore, the Church's teachings on family life and sexuality are an attainable reality—and is so because of **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System** and **NaProTECHNOLOGY**—and that means the future priest needs to take action. The course that the Pope Paul VI Institute co-sponsors at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is doing just that. That is why the seminary education program *Marriage, The Family, and Human Sexuality* is so important because it addresses this.” The Pope Paul VI Institute has been honored to co-sponsor the seminary course, which has had great formative value for seminarians and has empowered them to go proclaim these truths to all whom they encounter. ☺



Thomas W. Hilgers, MD

Obstetrician-gynecologist and director of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and the National Center for Women's Health. Co-developer of the **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System**. Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. Editor of *Connect* Newsletter.



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

Connect

Sexuality Sanctity Science

Marriage Allotropy Medicine



Pope Paul VI Institute
6901 Mercy Road Omaha, Nebraska 68106

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO. 1750

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, I believe: I wish to believe in Thee.
Lord, let my faith be full and unreserved,
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

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

More resources can be found on our web sites:

www.popepaulvi.com
www.creightonmodel.com
www.naprotechnology.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
Adoration
8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays

• **Rev. Edward Richard** M.S., D. Th., M., J.D.
For ethics and questions
(314) 792-6107 or richard@kenrick.edu

Sue Hilgers: (402) 390-6600 ext. 149 or suehilg@aol.com.

Direct all other questions to:

Pope Paul VI Institute Directory
FertilityCare™ Center of Omaha
To learn the Creighton Model FertilityCare System.
(402) 392-0842 or fcoco@popepaulvi.com
Co-directors: Jeanice Vinduska, Sue Elser
• **National Center for Women's Health**
For clinic questions:
(402) 390-6600
Linda Cady (Dr. Hilgers' head nurse)

For medical questions:
(402) 390-9167 or tgreen@popepaulvi.com
Terri Green (Dr. Hilgers' personal administrator)

• **Creighton Model FertilityCare**
Allied Health Education Program
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. Renée Mirkes, OSF, PhD