



FALL 2010 • VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3

**TO THE PRIESTS & DEACONS of the Archdiocese of Omaha,**

The Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction celebrated an important milestone in its history—our 25th anniversary—over Labor Day weekend. The Institute’s anniversary was also a celebration of the teachings of the Church and especially *Humanae Vitae* and of the many blessings of being involved in this work. The Institute is the “Miracle on Mercy Road” given the tremendous obstacles we faced over these many years.

I would like to thank you—our priests and deacons in the Archdiocese—for your support and prayers for the Pope Paul VI Institute. The Pope Paul VI Institute exists only because of the steadfastness and wisdom of the Church in the areas of marriage, family, and sexuality. Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, presented the teachings on love and life in such a compelling way that I knew I needed to respond to its appeals to physicians and men of science. I had thought the Church would change Her position on contraception but, after reading this encyclical, I understood why this could never happen. These remarkable teachings impelled me to become involved as a physician and researcher.

It has been my personal and professional privilege to work in this vital area of human reproduction for these many years beginning at St. Louis University School of Medicine and then at Creighton University School of Medicine. After graduating from my OB-GYN residency, I wanted to practice pro-life medicine and to provide my patients with an effective NFP method. In 1985, the Pope Paul VI Institute opened its doors. Because the Institute’s practice of medicine and research is in concert with the Faith, in 2004 I published a comprehensive textbook on **NaProTECHNOLOGY** (natural procreative technology), which is a new women’s health science developed at the Institute completely consistent with the teachings of the Church. Mainstream medicine is based in artificial contraception, sterilization, IVF, and abortion. This approach does nothing to heal women but only masks the symptoms. IVF creates life by destroying life.

NaProTechnology is an effective and legitimate alternative to women and couples that is not burdened with the moral issues associated with artificial reproductive technologies. Our research, medicine, education, and service delivery infrastructure can impact the *culture of life*. Doctors can now take a stand for life in their medical offices with medicine that provides real answers to real problems.

The Catholic Church’s view of the authenticity of the human person reflects that we are made in the image and likeness of God. The Catholic Church has exhibited a very special “charism” as the one institution in the world that has stood alone on these controversial reproductive and gynecological issues. Those of us involved in this work are proud of the Church and Her teachings, which have guided our work over these years. **NaProTECHNOLOGY** would not exist without the Catholic Church.

After two failed ISCI/IVF cycles, Stephanie Epolite of Sacramento, California, said, “It felt like it wasn’t meant to be. It was like my body failed me, and that I couldn’t do what I was meant to do. I felt an emptiness inside myself and my heart that could never be filled.” With the help of **NaProTECHNOLOGY**, she and her husband achieved a pregnancy and gave birth to a baby girl!

When Dr. Hilgers operates to restore a patient’s fertility, he often tells the surgical staff that they are doing “surgery of the heart” since this medicine not only heals the body but also minds and hearts and souls.

supporter, said to the Archbishop, “The Institute in Omaha [gives me] much hope for the future.”

The Institute has been publishing this Connect newsletter as a resource in your pastoral commitment to a culture of life. Your role—a priest’ role—to these women and couples cannot be overemphasized.

With God’s grace, we will continue to further the *culture of life* in women’s health care during the next 25 years and beyond. To do so, Faith must always be our guiding light. I ask for your continued prayers. And, may God be with each of you in a very special way.

— Thomas W. Hilgers, MD



Pope Paul VI Institute  
For the Study of Human Reproduction



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

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Connect

Marriage Allotropy Medicine



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**The NaPro Technology Revolution:**  
*Unleashing the Power in a Woman's Cycle*  
Details inside!

**Helping Priests Respond To Medical and Moral Challenges**  
In this issue: **Dr. Hilgers** – "To the Priests and Deacons of the Archdiocese of Omaha"  
An Overview of the Celebration of Love & Life

The Home of **FertilityCare™** and **NaProTECHNOLOGY™**

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

To the Most Holy Virgin I entrust this Year for Priests.  
I ask her to awaken  
in the heart of every priest  
a generous and renewed commitment  
to the ideal of complete self-oblation  
to Christ and the Church,  
which inspired the thoughts and actions  
of the saintly Cure of Ars. ...

Dear priests,  
Christ is counting on you.  
In the footsteps of the Cure of Ars,  
let yourselves be enthralled by Him.  
In this way you too will be,  
for the world in our time,  
heralds of hope,  
reconciliation  
and peace!  
— Pope Benedict XVI, Letter Proclaiming a  
Year for Priests, June 16, 2009

Access this newsletter online at  
[www.popepaulvi.com/connect.htm](http://www.popepaulvi.com/connect.htm)

More resources can be found on our web sites:  
[www.popepaulvi.com](http://www.popepaulvi.com)  
[www.creightonmodel.com](http://www.creightonmodel.com) • [www.naprotechnology.com](http://www.naprotechnology.com)  
[www.dhiligers.com](http://www.dhiligers.com) • [www.unleashingthepower.info](http://www.unleashingthepower.info)

**Chapel of the Holy Family**  
M-F: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Mass 8:30 AM Mon. | 2ND/4TH Wed. till Jan. | 1ST/3RD Fri.

**The NaPro Technology Revolution:**  
*Unleashing the Power in a Woman's Cycle*

**Other questions:** Sue Hilgers: [suehig@aol.com](mailto:suehig@aol.com), (402) 390-6600x149  
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• **National Center for Women's Health** – (402) 390-6600  
Jeanice Vinduska or Sue Eisert: [fcc@popepaulvi.com](mailto:fcc@popepaulvi.com)  
• **FertilityCare™ Center of Omaha** – (402) 392-0842  
**Pope Paul VI Institute Directory**

What every woman has a right to know  
about her body...her health...her future.  
A new book (2010) by Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers  
to be read by all women. It contains real  
women's charts and testimonials to  
illustrate the impact that NaProTechnology  
can have on their health and their lives.  
[www.unleashingthepower.info](http://www.unleashingthepower.info)



**Conferences**

**Love & Life Unlimited Conference**  
For priests, religious, lay professionals. A  
conference to ponder, promote, and proclaim  
the Catholic vision of reproductive health care.  
Topics include Creighton Model System &  
NaProTechnology, Humanae Vitae, Donum Vitae,  
Evangelium Vitae, Theology of the Body, & more!  
MONDAY, APRIL 4 – FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011  
Education programs — [www.popepaulvi.com/education.htm](http://www.popepaulvi.com/education.htm)  
Find CMS teachers & NPT physicians  
[www.fertilitycare.org](http://www.fertilitycare.org)

**Resources for Your Parish**