

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pope Paul VI Institute’s Witness of Healing and Hope Has Far-Reaching Mission

IT WAS SOON AFTER THEIR WEDDING when Michael and Lucynda Choi of Portland, Oregon, received the news that Lucynda had a rapidly growing, multiplying cyst within her ovaries. The diagnosis was met by multiple doctors with solutions that did not respect the Chois’ desire to have children or their Catholic faith.

“We were hopeless,” says Michael, “but our faith was never shaken.”

This faith would soon be rewarded through the work of the Pope Paul VI Institute and its uniquely effective approach to reproductive health care – health care that the Chois describe as “charitable,” “unitive” and, “superior.”

“Our experience has been that the medical community does not treat women very well,” Lucynda recounts. “We knew that there was something medically preventing us from being able to conceive due to the cysts and endometriosis they already knew of. But they offered no solutions that would resolve this while maintaining my fertility so I could bear children after I was healed. Instead — and this baffles me still — they continually pressured us with unhealthy solutions.

But at the Pope Paul VI Institute, Lucynda’s endometriosis received a different prescription from Dr. Hilgers, founder of the Pope Paul VI Institute and its Senior Medical Consultant.

“Dr. Hilgers was extremely thorough and told us he wanted to find out what all was really going on, as fertility, or infertility, is not a disease ... that our bodies are naturally designed to conceive,” Lucynda recalls of her first appointment with Dr. Hilgers. “Let’s figure this out and get you healthy first.’ He discovered very severe endometriosis along with multiple cysts. He was very open and honest, but was also hopeful, which I had not experienced from the other doctors I saw. I left after our first meeting with him with tears of hope and a sense of relief. I felt like God cared about me; He had not abandoned me. It wasn’t an easy road getting here but I was here. That innate feeling I had always had that I was meant to be a mother was maybe still true.”

Endometriosis is a condition in which uterine tissue is found in places other than the lining of the uterus, such as ovaries, tubes, bowels, outer surface of the uterus and other



Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers (right) with the Choi Family: Michael and Lucynda with their children, daughter, Ava Lily Maryn, a son, Anden Markus, and a daughter, Olivia Marysa

pelvic structures, often causing pelvic pain, dysmenorrhea, and infertility.

Given the extent of Lucynda’s endometriosis, a laparotomy surgery was required, followed by a scar preventative treatment, which required another laparoscopy surgery. These procedures would not just bring healing to the Chois, but eventually after being treated for the underlying issues, Michael and Lucynda had three children as well: a daughter, Ava Lily Maryn, a son, Anden Markus, and a daughter, Olivia Marysa, who are now five, four and two years old, respectively.

“When I first heard about the Pope Paul VI Institute, I was skeptical that there was not enough medical research behind its methods, but as I looked into

the Institute more closely, I found that is not at all the case,” Michael says. “The Pope Paul VI Institute is all about using natural methods to restore the body to its natural state. These are methods that fall right in line with the Hippocratic Oath and should be the standard of care in reproductive medicine.”

In 2015, the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction is celebrating 30 years of providing reproductive health care that fully complies with the teachings of the Catholic faith. Founded in 1985, the Institute responds to its namesake’s historic encyclical letter, *Humanae Vitae*, which compels medical professionals to “endeavor to fulfill the demands of their Christian vocation before any merely human interest” and to pursue medical actions that “accord with faith and right reason.”

“People do not typically come to the Pope Paul VI Institute first. They are usually broken, hurt, and down,” Michael says. “This should not be the case. Married couples need to know that there is real healing available to them.”

Profoundly grateful for the care they received, the Chois are presently working with the Institute to help spread its message.

“After our tribulation, we have no doubt that Dr. Hilgers uses his talents and his faith to allow God to work through him,” Lucynda says. “Now, we want to let other couples know that there is hope.”