



For the Study of Human
Reproduction

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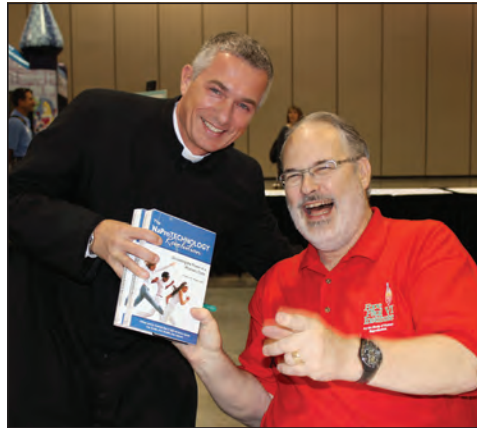
**Love and Life
Unlimited Conference**
Omaha, Neb. USA
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From Poland to Omaha: Father Jay Szymczak Offers Support and Enlightenment to Couples



Father Jay and Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers

THE POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE is proud to maintain a large network of resources that extends even inter-continently. One such resource is Father Jaroslaw (Jay) Szymczak, PhD, from Lomianki, Poland, a small town on the outskirts of Warsaw. Father Jay serves as Chaplain for the Institute's EP I and II programs and as Retreat Master for the *I + You = We Program*, one of a cycle of *Love and Life Programs* for married couples (which he co-developed in Poland) that fosters the development of marital relationships amongst couples.

According to Father Jay, the program "is addressed to believers and non-believers, giving them six simple steps leading to a life in unity."

In an age when marriage and sexuality are attacked on many fronts,

Father Jay has dedicated his work to helping couples form marriages that meet God's vision for the family and to enlighten couples regarding Catholic sexual ethics.

Father Jay is a consecrated priest of the Secular Institute of Consecrated Life Holy Family in Poland. He holds a doctorate of theology in marriage and the family, is a lecturer at the Faculty for Studies on the Family at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Lomianki and is a chairman of the Family Support Foundation, which develops the *Love and Life Programs* and offers them worldwide.

While Omaha is a long distance from his native Poland, Father Jay has found a home at the Pope Paul VI Institute. The opportunity to work with the Pope Paul VI Institute is one that Father Jay cherishes.

"I have fallen in love with Pope Paul VI and his landmark encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*," says Father Jay. "The Pope Paul VI Institute is a direct result of the Blessed Pope Paul VI's work and his call to medical professionals to seek solutions that promote life. I am so honored to have the opportunity to help the Institute answer this call."

For more information about these programs, please visit www.love-andlifeprograms.org.

A Gift in Your Will: Getting Started

MOST PEOPLE 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.

To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust. Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate. Or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities

or property. After your lifetime, Pope Paul VI Institute receives your gift. When planning a future gift, it's sometimes difficult to determine what size donation will make sense. Including a bequest of a *percentage of your estate* ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how your estate's value fluctuates over the years.

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.

Couple Find Hope, Healing and Faith at Pope Paul VI Institute

IN THE 30 SHORT YEARS SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED, the Pope Paul VI Institute has been building a culture of life that has extended well beyond the boundaries of its headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. The Institute's reach is reflected in many ways, but it's perhaps most evident in the men and women who travel hundreds and thousands of miles to Omaha each year in order to receive the healing and hope that Pope Paul VI Institute so abundantly provides.

Such was the case with Sebastien and Genevieve Giraud, residents of Mauritius, a tiny island in the Indian Ocean, situated just east of Madagascar, known most prominently as the former home of the now-extinct Dodo Bird.

Suffering with infertility, the Girauds were being urged by local physicians towards methods that conflicted with their religious beliefs. Strong in their faith, they did what many Catholics would do: they conducted a Google search — seeking a patron saint for infertility — and were drawn to the story of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, the 20th Century Italian woman who demonstrated steadfast courage and faith in the face of a difficult pregnancy that would claim her life.

After signing up for the St. Gianna Center's online mailing list, the Girauds were soon contacted by a representative of the site who, aware of the couple's infertility issues, mentioned the work being done through the Pope Paul VI Institute.

Despite some initial skepticism, the Girauds visited the Institute's website where they were captivated by the



Sebastien and Genevieve Giraud point to their home of Mauritius on the map at the Pope Paul VI Institute.

only option for pregnancy. The Pope Paul VI Institute offered a different option — using state-of-the-art robotic surgery, Dr. Hilgers successfully treated the conditions that caused her infertility (endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome and blocked fallopian tubes).

For Genevieve, the Pope Paul VI Institute and Dr. Hilgers offered healing and a rare doctor who represented the best in medicine and practice, one who, according to her, “truly respects the Hippocratic Oath.”

While the Girauds found healing at the Pope Paul VI Institute, it was faith that has left the most indelible impression on the couple.

“We knew that the Pope Paul VI Institute was a Catholic organization but to see Dr. Hilgers and the staff say a prayer before surgery or to have the nurse hand me a rosary ... these brought us closer to God,” said Genevieve. “Not only this, but our story has provided a witness to those around us and it is bringing them closer to God, also.”



A Visit from Dr. Alveda King

On Oct. 27, prominent pro-life activist and civil rights leader Dr. Alveda King paid a visit to the Pope Paul VI Institute. Dr. King was in Omaha to speak at Creighton University and Creighton Prep High School.

Dr. King grew up during the civil rights movement led by her uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and she sees the pro-life movement as a continuation of the civil rights struggle. She currently lives in Atlanta and serves as a Pastoral Associate and Director of African-American Outreach for Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.



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Message from the director

I am pleased to present you with this issue of the *Building a Culture of Life Newsletter*. As I read through the stories here, I cannot help but note the Institute's tremendous reach. We have a story about Genevieve and Sebastien Giraud who came all the way from Mauritius to the Institute in search of help. There is a wonderful piece on Father Jay Szymczak, a Polish Priest and internationally renowned speaker who travels to Omaha from Warsaw twice each year to serve as a Chaplain for our EP I and II programs and to deliver a fantastic two-day retreat for couples. This issue also features a profile on my dear friend, Mr. Paul Comeau, a longtime board member for the Institute.

Without question, the culture of death is pervasive and knows no boundaries and we are working on six continents to answer Blessed Pope Paul VI's appeal (as expressed in *Humanae Vitae*) "for medical solutions that are in accord with faith and right reason." It is very satisfying to know that the Pope Paul VI Institute is having an impact throughout the world, but as my aforementioned friend Paul says, "we have a lot of work left to do." Thank you for helping us in this work.

Thomas W. Hayes, MD



Building a Culture of Life in Women's Health Care



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

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On page 3, read the story of Sebastien and Genevieve Giraud (above), who traveled from the tiny island nation of Mauritius to visit the Pope Paul VI Institute

Holy Spirit Guides the Work of Institute, Says Longtime Board Member Paul Comeau

LONGTIME POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE BOARD MEMBER, PAUL COMEAU, is proud to recount the Institute's many accomplishments since he joined the Board of Directors almost 30 years ago. A former attorney for Union Pacific, Comeau was contacted by Dr. Thomas Hilgers in the early 1980s for help in finding a location for what would become the Pope Paul VI Institute.

"We were looking all over for a suitable location, and one day I was driving down Mercy Road, which makes so much sense now, and saw a lot with an old car wash. It had some weeds and needed some work, but it seemed like a perfect spot," he recalls. "So I looked up the owner through the County Assessor, an Iowa farmer, who had long been considering selling the lot. A year and a half later we broke ground and the rest is history."

When Comeau joined the Board more than 30 years ago, the Institute consisted of the Hilgers, Dr. Hilgers' research, and a vision for an Institute that would meet Pope Paul VI's appeal to medical professionals (as stated in *Humanae Vitae*).

"Here was this young doctor who was doing really amazing work, and there was nothing else like it," says Comeau. "He works so hard but he is also so talented. I can't imagine there are



The car wash formerly at 6901 Mercy Rd. in Omaha.

many people who would have the talent and commitment to build what he has over the past 30 years. To do what he has with the help of a few faithful donors is remarkable."



Paul Comeau in front of the "Miracle on Mercy Road" in Omaha in 2014.

The accomplishments Comeau cites in speaking about the Institute are many. It includes educational programs that have trained physicians and other medical professionals from six continents, an advisory board with bishops from the throughout the United States and the Vatican, the support of former popes and a medical clinic that "creates life."

While Comeau is extremely proud of the Institute's many accomplishments, he understands that the Institute has a lot of work left to do.

"We are building a culture of life and it's been against great odds," he says. "But looking back, there is no doubt the Holy Spirit has helped guide our work."

If you wish to become a **Partner in Life** member, please visit popepaulvi.com/give