

Natural Family Planning

Natural Family Planning Services (NFP) in Sydney and Parramatta is a Catholic Church Agency which originated in response to the Encyclical Letter *Humanae Vitae* on the Regulation of Birth. The agency has operated from Polding House since 1983 and has six centres in the Sydney Archdiocese and five in the Parramatta Diocese.

Modern natural family planning is an effective form of family planning and is based on sound scientific fact and supported by research. The Sympto Thermal Method of Family Planning is 98% effective in avoiding a pregnancy, when taught properly by an accredited natural family planning teacher. The method is a vast improvement on the "Rhythm" method which was taught thirty years ago.

The Church teaches that couples need to responsibly plan their families and that some methods of contraception are morally flawed because they compromise the meaning of sexual intercourse. Sexual intercourse is meant to be both life-giving and love-giving and these two aspects are inseparable. NFP allows couples to grow in intimacy and promotes the sacred nature of their sexual union.

Mrs Evelyn Brien (pictured), Director of the agency, said "we believe that all people have the right to correct information about fertility". Women and couples are given instruction usually in a personal interview. Couples are taught anatomy and physiology and learn the fertile and infertile phases of the woman's cycle.

Apart from individual instruction, natural family planning educators speak at about 100 premarriage courses each year. The educator's also speak in schools, to community groups such as Nursing Mothers Groups and are regular visitors to maternity hospitals. NFP has a centre at both St Vincent's and The Mater Hospitals.

Evelyn Brien is the NFP State Trainer for



NSW; all teachers for NFP Sydney must be accredited through The Australian Council of Natural Family Planning (ACNFP). Evelyn runs four training weekends a year, as well as a bi-annual State Inservice that provides ongoing accreditation for workers.

NFP receives funding from the Church as well as from the Federal Government through the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and through the NFP Program in Canberra. The service is available to all people, including those interested in health as well as those interested in the moral teachings of the Church. Many couples are choosing natural family planning as a healthy alternative to contraceptive methods of family planning.

The agency hopes to run a seminar for young adults later this year. Young people from various agencies throughout the Archdiocese have responded to the idea. It will cater for a large group of young peoples, not necessarily in relationship who are simply interested in how their bodies work, as well as the Church Teachings. More details will be included in future editions of Snapshots.

Catholic Institute of Sydney Receives Grant

The Catholic Institute of Sydney has received a special grant to fund the development of a new course focusing on the ongoing dialogue between science and religion.

The grant, from the Centre for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS), is one of 100 awards given to colleges and universities around the world in CTNS' annual Science and Religion Course Award Competition.

Professors Rev. Dr. Gerald Gleeson and

Ms. Janiene Wilson from the Institute, received the award for the development of their course entitled *Science, Human Behaviour and Christian Ethics*. Dr Gleeson said the new course unit would explore the relevance of the behavioural sciences, particularly psychology, to Catholic moral teaching on topics such as conscience and moral development.

"The Catholic tradition emphasises the "objectivity" of morality — that human

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Installation of Archbishop Pell



On Thursday, 10th May, the Most Reverend Archbishop George Pell became the Archbishop of Sydney. St Mary's Cathedral was filled for the Solemn Mass and Liturgical Reception of Archbishop Pell.

All the Bishops of Australia and over 300 Sydney priests concelebrated the ceremony. Also in the congregation were Archbishop Pell's family and friends, Prime Minister John Howard, as well as other federal and state legislative members, representatives from every parish and school of the Archdiocese and nearly 200 young Catholics.

The symbolic rituals in the ceremony included the seating of Archbishop Pell in the cathedra and the handing over of the Crozier by Cardinal Clancy. Representatives from the clergy and lay faithful welcomed the Archbishop.

The video of the ceremony can be purchased from Catholic Communication for \$36.00 which includes postage and handling and GST. Contact: Anne Zabodal on 9439 8499.

Welcome

This month we profile Natural Family Planning in the Sydney Archdiocese. Based at Polding House, this group works at several centres throughout Sydney. Also there is a review of the Installation of Archbishop Pell, the World Youth Day 2000 video and the Reconciliation Week CD.

If there is anything that your agency has to communicate, do it in Snapshots. This is an effective way of linking together the agencies in the Archdiocese. Just e-mail:

director@cathcomm.media.syd.catholic.org.au

Church Unity, How do you see it?

Pope John Paul II said in 1995 "Ecumenism is not just some 'appendix' which is added to the church's traditional activity. Rather, ecumenism is an organic part of its life and work and consequently must pervade all that the church is and does." (Ut unum sint, That They Might All Be One).

The NSW Ecumenical Council is a body that provides an open space for dialogue between Churches. The Council is made up of fourteen member Churches. As a Jubilee project, all eleven NSW Catholic Dioceses became members of the Council by 1999.

The Council has planned a Theological Symposium with the theme "Church Unity – How do we see it?" It follows the success of the two Symposiums on "Eucharistic Sharing" held in 2000. The forum will consist of a panel of speakers, followed by time for open discussion.

The speakers for the night include Archdeacon Beatrice Pate (Anglican), Mr Philip Kariatlis (Greek Orthodox), The Rev'd Dr Richard Lennan (Roman Catholic), The

Rev'd David Gill (Uniting). Each will address the question of Church Unity from the perspective of their tradition. Sr Mary Cresp rj will be the moderator for the evening.

Discussion and ideas presented on the night will help formulate the reports and further the work of the Faith and Order Group. As a doctrinal group of the NSW Ecumenical Council, Faith and Order are responsible for the extensive dialogue between Churches concerning doctrinal questions and issues. The Symposium is a way for the group to open up this dialogue even further.

Any person belonging to one of the fourteen board Churches is invited to attend the Symposium, as well as any other interested person. This welcome includes all members of the agencies of the Archdiocese, as ecumenism is integral to all the work we do.

The Symposium will be held on the 21st July at St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, 242 Cleveland St, Redfern, 2-5pm. Registration is \$12. Contact NSW Ecumenical Council Ph. 92992215, email: kmoroney@ncca.org.au

World Youth Day Video Launch

IN August last year over a thousand Australian pilgrims ventured to Rome for World Youth Day 2000. They were a part of two million young people who gathered to mark the occasion under the invitation of Pope John Paul II. The extraordinary celebration has been captured on video by Harvest Pilgrimages.

Catholic Youth Services are hosting the Sydney launch of the video on Saturday 9th June. It will be held at the Australian Catholic University in Strathfield, and will begin with a liturgy at 2.00pm.

Archbishop George Pell will be celebrating the liturgy with Bishop David Cremin,

Chaplain to the Sydney group last year.

At approximately 3.00pm the video will be shown on the big screen in the auditorium. Light refreshments will also be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend, especially those interested in future World Youth Day events. Discussions for World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada in 2002 will also begin on the day. Please RSVP on 9763 1416.

The video is on sale for \$20 (Rome) and \$30 (Holy Land and Rome). For pilgrims who have not received a copy, they will be available on the day or can be ordered from Harvest Pilgrimages.

Year of the Volunteer 2001

DIALOGUE is a welcoming space for the hearts and minds of young adults to pause and explore issues, others and self.

Coinciding with the International Year of Volunteers, *Dialogue* is a sharing of experiences by young adults who are passionately involved in community projects. They will share their times of being with the homeless, disadvantaged children, those in prison, refugees and more. It is an opportunity to

hear their stories and to find out what motivates young people to face the challenges which exist in our city. Be inspired yourself to "Pay it forward"!

Date: 3rd June, 2001
Venue: St Francis Xavier Parish Hall
 19 MacKenzie St, Lavender Bay
Time: 7:30 – 9:30pm
Cost: \$5
More info: Luke Shelton on mob.0414 633 944

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beings share a common human nature and that the principles of good human living apply to all of us. We also recognise that people are individuals with their own experiences, perceptions and insights, at different stages of moral development, and influenced by conscious and unconscious motivations. The behavioural sciences can shed light on the "subjective" factors relevant to moral evaluation. This course will be genuinely interdisciplinary, enabling moral theology to critique the behavioural sciences, and the behavioural sciences to

nuance the claims of moral theology."

Dr. Ted Peters, director of the CTNS Science and Religion Course Program, said "As the pace and scope of scientific discovery increases, as science and technological discoveries permeate the everyday world of religious and cultural traditions, courses which critically address the relationship between science and our religious experiences become increasingly vital. By bringing science and religion into contact with one another at universities our goal is to foster a

Halifax Lectures on the Net



GO to www.aceir.cathcomm.org.au to find out about upcoming Ecumenical events. Also on the site are transcripts from the Halifax – Portal Lectures that were held in May. The lectures are reflections on issues of importance to Anglicans and Catholics.

Weekend for Music Lovers

MUSIC is a great vehicle for all people to experience and express their spirituality. In a recent *Snapshot* you may have read about the Catholic Band called *Encounter*. Now they have joined forces with two other musical teams to create a *Weekend of Music!*

Dance with the Lord Weekend will be a weekend for both musicians and music-lovers. It will feature three bands:

- Hearts on Fire
- Encounter
- Retro-Key

During the two days there will be music, drama (performed by the Disciples Youth Mission Team), celebration of the Eucharist and time for prayer, reflection and plenty of fun.

When: Starts 7.30pm Fri 15th June and continues from 12 Noon Sat 16th June into the evening. (Own accommodation)

Where: Concord West

Cost: \$25 (for a two day program that's great!!)

For more info call Paul Elarde on 0418 248 367
 Or email: avdesign@chilli.net.au

worldwide community of scientists and religious intellectuals actively engage in formulating and addressing questions of ultimate concern."

The Catholic Institute of Sydney, located at Strathfield, is a member of the Sydney College of Divinity. The course unit will be offered at Masters level, and will also be open to qualified undergraduates at other member institutions of the Sydney College of Divinity and affiliated universities. The unit will first be offered in Semester 1, 2002.