

# More Opinions

## Natural Family Planning

Editor:

Married couples do have a 99.9 per cent effective method to plan or delay pregnancies. It is not the old "calendar rhythm" method. It is taught throughout the world and involves couples sharing the responsibility for planning their families.

The new modern Natural Family Planning methods are a positive answer to contraception, sterilization and abortion. This method is taught couple-to-couple in the Rochester diocese. We were introduced to it through the Office of Family Life under Father Robert Collins.

Catholic hospitals should not have to perform sterilizations. Natural Family Planning is a way of life, workable, effective and with no harmful side effects.

## Pastoral Perspective

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single out for specific commendation the core group which has so carefully laid the groundwork for this, new structure in our diocese.

I recall with gratitude the pioneer committee, of four years ago, with Bishop McCafferty among them.

I recall, too, the drafters of the Pastoral Council Constitution and the members of the Pastoral Council Formation Committee. They have worked hard and long. Today presents us only with the first-fruits of their labors.

I recall, further, the Convocation Steering Committee which, over the past six months, has been formulating plans for the Council.

Finally, in addition to Dr. Felix Lopez who has so efficiently served as the guiding spirit of this weekend's proceedings, I would like to single out for this new Council Sister Mary Binsack, Executive Secretary; Reverend Peter Bayer, Director of Diocesan Planning; Reverend Douglas Hoffman, Director of Pastoral Ministry.

By-way of a footnote to today's festivities, on a day when our whole nation pauses to pay tribute to Father, "the forgotten figure" in our American family, I wish to remember and congratulate all who share that unsung role. It is my sincere prayer — and I know you join me in this — that Our Father in Heaven will on this special day bless abundantly all who, however remotely, image forth the love and concern of the Eternal Father.

### CONCLUSION

Finally, I want to thank all those who worked so generously behind the scenes to take care of our personal comfort this weekend.

If it is possible to sum up the experience of this weekend and the richness of these readings into a single statement, it is best done by borrowing one of Paul's most penetrating insights:

However many the promises God has offered, the Yes to them is to be found in Christ Jesus, through whom we proclaim our Amen to the glory of God — the very God who has rooted us all together in Christ and, by anointing us, has marked us with his seal and made the down payment, the Spirit, who lives in our hearts. (2 Co. 1:20-22)

As for what others may think about the significance of this weekend, I do not know. For me it has been an authentic experience of Church in dialogue about her destiny. Ours has been a Sinai encounter with a reminder of our election as God's beloved and a summons to priestly service. Vivid reminders have reinforced Paul's eloquent reminder that only through his death, Jesus has made us the new People of God. Finally, I have accepted the Gospel reading with candor and courage. For, after the example of the Good Shepherd and in accordance with Vatican II, I thank God I am ready, willing and able to share leadership and responsibility with you for what the Church is and for what she is called to become.

Most important to us, it has proved to be an asset to our marriage.

Richard and Sheila Prinzing  
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## By Whose Authority?

Editor:

Just who are Richard and Theresa Hussar? By whose authority to they dare to suggest that the Catholic Church's door is closed to those who do not share their views on St. Joan's Alliance, National Organization of Women, and the Equal Rights Amendment?

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## Assails Bias Against Gays

Editor:

In regards to Ms. Fillmore's letter (5-28-75) where she states that those involved in Gay Liberation are "... dedicated to eradicate decency in humanity..." I must ask; is any discrimination decent? Is it decent to be denied employment, education or housing? Is it decent to be subject to unequal protection before the law, with examples being police entrapment and arbitrary enforcement? Is it decent for society to have laws making our love illicit? Is any society decent that forces hundreds of millions of souls to live deceitful and hypocritical lives out of fear? So, on the contrary, we involved in Gay Liberation are dedicated to eradicating indecency in our society.

God created all human beings and we are all equal in His eyes. Who are we to treat anyone else as a lesser or to say that their existence is "unholy." As a Catholic and a gay activist, I fight for something that God has given but men have denied — equality.

Kevin Scahill  
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## 'Be Counted As Christians'

Editor:

It seems today's laity is being asked to live out their total Christian commitment with that early Church vigor that spread Christianity throughout the world. Somehow I think we laity thought a religious life belonged to the clergy and that our part in the Church was just another avenue in our much too busy lives. Well praise the Lord the word is finally sinking in. We're all Christians and we must assume our responsibilities wholeheartedly in a not so Christian environment. We're even returning to scripture for all that necessary instruction for leading such a committed, honest, trustworthy, and truly joyful life.

My thanks to the Prince of Peace for showing me what joy really is in such a confusing world. My thanks to the Holy Spirit Who is my constant source of strength.

Barbara Werzinger  
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## Celebration Fetes Pastor

Hornell — It was a Golden Jubilee and a golden day for Father Herbert Sturmer as the people of St. Ann's Parish joined in a celebration for the 50th Anniversary of his ordination. Other priests concelebrating the High Mass with Father Sturmer were Fathers Robert MacNamara, pastor of St. Ann's; Louis Brown, William Spilly, also of St. Ann's and Albert Delmonte of Rochester, formerly of St. Ann's.

A banquet was held later in the day attended by more than 200 people. A parish reception was also held in his honor. Arrangements for the celebration were directed by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cannon; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fillmore; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lamb and the Legion of Mary.

### FIRST COMMUNION

Kings Ferry — Our Lady of the Lake is preparing a First Communion Class to receive the sacrament on June 22. On June 29 the First Communion Class at All Saints, the mission church in Lansing, will receive the sacrament. Father Richard C. Stanton also reported that many parishioners have begun meeting and planning for their Summer Festival scheduled, Aug. 17.

### GOLDEN AGERS

The Southwest Golden Age Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 27, at 34 Monica St.

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