

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Natural Family Planning goes back a long long way. It is not a new concept. And in this age which glorifies the new, technological, profitable and instant gratification... when truth accepted prior to five years before the present dateline is automatically ridiculed... ancient truths are not easy to sell, even when they work. There are contributing factors. This is the year of the controversial **Human Sexuality: New Directions in American Catholic Thought** (Paulist Press, 1977) in which the teachings of Vatican II and the Magisterium of the Roman Church are directly contradicted, especially the teachings on artificial contraception, premarital sex, sterilization, adultery, homosexual acts and bestiality. In addition there is considerable support among liberal Catholic priests and nuns, not only for federal funding of abortion, but for federal/state legislation which would allow continued first-trimester abortion in the United States.

Another factor which contributes to the total ignorance or the misguidance of the general public on NFP is that it is difficult to obtain

reasonably adequate funding for classes and publicity on the subject. Abortion gets much more financial support, directly and indirectly, than NFP. This is due, partly at least, to the fact that there is absolutely no opportunity for industrial, political or social profitmaking with NFP.

But NFP is coming on strong. Perhaps, after all these centuries, the place is here and the time is now. A Jewish view:

"For marriage to thrive, the attractiveness of the wife and husband for each other that prevailed during the early period of the marriage must be preserved and even enhanced. It is the abstinence enjoined by Family Purity that helps keep that attraction and longing fresh and youthful. This is how the Talmud explains the psychological ramifications (NFP): 'Because a man may become over-acquainted with (his wife) and thus repelled by her, therefore the Torah says that she should be considered niddah for seven days after her period, so that she might become beloved of her husband on the day of her purification even as she was on the day of her marriage.' Unrestricted approachability leads to overindulgence. And this overfamiliarity, with its consequent satiety and boredom and ennui, is a direct and powerful cause of marital disharmony." (A Hedge of Roses: Jewish Insights Into Marriage and Married Life, Rabbi Norman Lamm. P. Feldheim Inc. 1968)

Next Week: A Protestant view of Natural Family Planning...

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Some of Life's Little Pains:

- Discovering that an acquaintance whom you always wanted to know better is being transferred by husband's company to another town.

- Battling a virus for a week, recovering and then relapsing just in time for weekend guests.

POSTPONEMENT

An Evening with Cicely Tyson, booked for Nov. 12 at Nazareth Arts Center, has been rescheduled for May 20. Series subscribers may use their tickets then and boxoffice sales will open April 18. Miss Tyson is playing Harriet Tubman in a film named Moses. An accelerated production schedule has necessitated rearrangement of her engagements, the Arts Center said.

TURKEY PARTY

Addison—St. Catherine's Parish is sponsoring a turkey party Saturday, Nov. 12 from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission to the evening's events, in the parish hall at Curtiss and Maple Streets, will be \$1.

- Finding that too many people have "meeting mentalities." They operate under the principle of "when in doubt call a meeting."

- Realizing that it is not safe to turn on TV after 9 p.m. if the kids are in the room with the season's trend toward sexual innuendo as common as jelly on toast and just as sticky.

AND Some of Life's Definite Pleasures:

- Having a neighbor with unerring instinct who pops in to offer cheery talk and a shoulder to lean on just at the right time.

- Papers kids bring home from school bearing incontrovertible evidence that

- some teachers utilize humor in the battle to stay sane.

- A letter from an octogenarian grandmother who always manages to be funny, uplifting and just plain interesting, week in and week out.

- A husband who pitches in with housework without making a big deal out of it.

- Three children who seize upon their parents' witticisms and turn them against them with style and flair.

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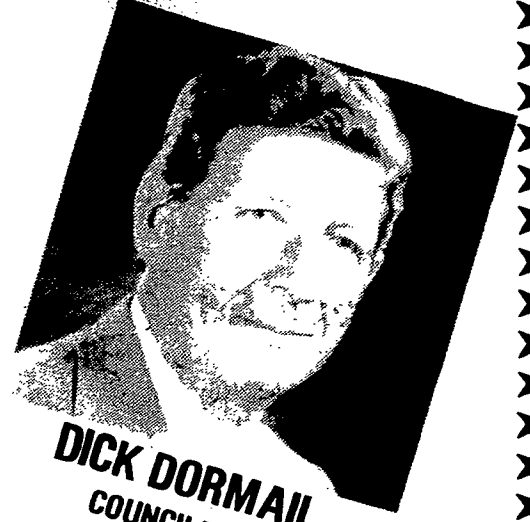
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