



Dear Father,
I read in the paper the other day that you were giving the keynote address on the occasion of the induction of ten couples as instructors in the Natural Family Planning Program. This seemed to me to be a little odd in view of the fact that I can remember when you allowed for people to follow their own con-

sciences in regard to the rulings of Humanae Vitae and the use of contraceptives. I cannot document those instances but I distinctly remember your allowing for that possibility on the part of couples who could find no other way of limiting their families.

The question naturally arose in my mind, "Why is he espousing this particular program when not too long ago he was allowing complete freedom in respect to this particular matter?" Maybe you can help me in regard to this perplexity.

(Signed) C.M.

Dear C.M.,

It is not all that difficult for me to admit that I have gone through a considerable learning process since words you refer to were originally

spoken. There are some people who can not understand how anyone can go from one position to another without being either phony or vacillating.

The fact is that I felt the situation had no real solution prior to my discovery of Natural Family Planning. One of the things which is most important to realize and accept is that Natural Family Planning is not at all the same as rhythm. I always felt that rhythm was a copout in the answer to people's need to plan their families which are regarded as a God given right.

When I discovered that Natural Family Planning not only is infinitely superior in a physical way to the rhythm system, but rather also a beautiful way of people understanding their sexuality and their relationships to one

another, I began to commend it.

This is not to say that I will refuse to respect people who still regard contraception as the only way that they in conscience can plan their families. That is between them and God.

But I would highly recommend their investigation of Natural Family Planning as a way of avoiding several difficulties. For some people there is the avoidance of the aesthetic problems in the use of contraceptive devices. There is also the solution of medical problems involving the use of the pill and IUD devices which involve some important contraindications. There is also the fact that for many people this is a matter of conscience and therefore peace of mind is at stake in the use of a particular

method over another method.

All in all, The Natural Family Planning system has a rather remarkable record of dependability plus other singular advantages which I think many people should investigate. If you have any questions about this particular thing I would recommend that you call the Office of Family Life, headed up by Frank and Sue Staropoli. The number to call is 546-3630.

CORRECTION

In last weeks story on the Marriage Communication Retreat at the Cenacle, John Barnoski was identified as being a staffer for the Office of Family Life. He is a staff member of the Marriage and Family Enrichment Department of the Catholic Family Center, a different department.

Alumnae Dedication

Members and friends of the Rochester Circle of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae will dedicate Saturday, March 4, to the memory of Bishop James E. Kearney, deceased former Bishop of Rochester, by joining at Mass at the Cenacle Retreat House at noon and at a luncheon at the Century Club following the Mass.

Father Charles Lavery, CSB, president of St. John Fisher College, will celebrate the Mass and be guest speaker at the luncheon.

At that time the federation will announce the establishment of a chair of Catholic Education at the Catholic University of America in honor of St. Elizabeth Seton.

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