



SDNB

Salina Diocesan News Bulletin

Volume 498

July 2022

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

CONFIRMATION schedule for next year is still being finalized. If you have any questions or need to have your parish included in the schedule, please let Brenda know as soon as possible.

CHANCERY CLOSED on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe and happy 4th!!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL GREEN TIE FUNDRAISER will take place on July 30 at the Salina Country Club beginning at 6:00 P.M. Please visit <https://ccnks.org/greentie> or contact Catholic Charities for more information (785.825.0208).

NFP AWARENESS WEEK is July 24-30. Thank you for promoting NFP in your parishes. There are many great resources available on the USCCB website (www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/national-nfp-awareness-week). Please see the Office of Natural Family Planning for more information.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY, will take place each year on the fourth Sunday in July, close to the feast of Ss. Joachim and Anne (July 26). This year, the special day will be celebrated on July 24. Please recognize these groups of people at your Masses.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING inserts for the bulletin are found below:

JULY - Check to see if there are residences around you that serve survivors of trafficking. Staff in these residences help to restore the lives of survivors and can use your support. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainstrafficking.org)

Julio - Verifique si hay residencias a su alrededor que sirvan a sobrevivientes de la trata. El personal de estas residencias ayuda a restaurar la vida de los supervivientes y pueden necesitar su apoyo. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** es una organización 501 c (3), 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainstrafficking.org)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

ANNUAL SEMINARIAN COLLECTION is the weekend of August 13-14. Thank you for your support of this important collection.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP (cont.)

ANNUAL SEMINARIAN FUNDRAISING DINNERS are scheduled for August 10th in Salina at the Salina Country Club and August 11th at The Strand in Hays. These events will start at 5:15 P.M. Visit the diocesan website or call the Chancery to purchase tickets. Thank you for your support.

RUNNIN' REVS game in Hays will take place at 6 P.M. on August 12 at TMP-M Al Billinger Field House. This is a free event to help support seminarians and promote vocations. All are encouraged to come out and show your support!

MEN'S CONFERENCE is scheduled for August 13 in Hays at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish. Thank you for promoting this event.

RURAL LIFE WORKSHOP is Sunday, August 14 at St. Fidelis Parish in Victoria at 3:00 P.M. Please see the *Office of Rural Life* for more information.

CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT BOARD meeting is scheduled for August 18 at 1:30 P.M. in Salina.

OFFICE OF RURAL LIFE

THE 2022 RURAL LIFE DAY will be at St. Fidelis Church in Victoria on Sunday, August 14th, beginning at 3:00 P.M. with a prayer service in the Basilica. The featured event of Rural Life Day is the Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm awards. These awards are presented to families who have lived on farms in the Diocese of Salina, or have farmed land in the diocese, or owned farms in the diocese for 100 years or more. With each award, the family relates a brief (5 minutes or so) history of how the family came to own or live on the farm, as well as significant events of the family over the past 100 years, and the importance faith played in these family events.

Applications may be obtained on the diocesan website under *Rural Life*. Please fill out the application including the name of the first family member to own or farm the land; their children, and the succession of family members to own or farm the land. We would also appreciate the family history of the farm and significant events and the importance and growth of faith over the years. Family photos will be taken on Rural Life Day and the family pictures and histories will be printed in *The Register*. The application is due August 1st to Rural Life Commission, 215 W. 13th Street, Hays, KS 67601. For additional information or if you have questions, contact Fr. Richard Daise, 785-625-7356 or frrich@sacredheartcolby.com. You may also contact Francis Goeckel, 402-239-8519 or Tom Murphy, 913-558-9223.

MANDATORY MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING: Microsoft Team Meetings for Safety Coordinators of schools will be held in mid – July. A meeting for Safety Coordinators of parishes will be held in early August. An email was already sent out to School Safety Coordinators to sign up. An email for Parish Safety Coordinators to sign up will be forthcoming. You can attend a Teams meeting even if you do not have a Teams account. I will send further instructions with your email invitation.

AUDIT PERIOD: The audit period for 2021-2022 ended June 30th. Any user in the database that had an expired status or had an unfinished Safe Environment Curriculum has now been archived. As you embark on yet another new school year, please begin contacting all new employees and volunteers, those employees and volunteers who were archived and want to continue ministering, and those employees and volunteers who need to renew the Safe Environment protocol, as soon as possible. Training and background checks must be completed before beginning ministry.

THE SHEPHERD: Please continue to use this quarterly newsletter to stay current with information from the Safe Environment Office and the Diocese of Salina as you continue to provide safe environments for the children and youth in your care.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATIONS

BULLETIN: Please continue placing the announcement below in your bulletins. We are receiving several emails from parishioners who have never received our publications. If you know of families in your parish who are not registered, please encourage them to register so they can receive our FREE publications! All we need is their mailing address.

Did you know that all registered parishioners within the diocese are able to receive our FREE diocesan publications? We have a monthly newspaper (The Register) and a quarterly magazine (faith). Contact your parish office to register as a parishioner and ask them to send your mailing address to the diocese so that we can get you on our mailing list. Or email theregister@salinadiocese.org. You don't want to miss out on our publications!

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS: Please share stories and photos from your parish or Catholic school to Katie at theregister@salinadiocese.org

July paper	Content due: July 1
August paper	Content due: August 5

Thank you for your help with providing content for our publications. I really rely on your assistance to make our publications enjoyable for our readers.

ADVERTISEMENTS: If you know of local business interested in advertising in our publications, please direct them to theregister@salinadiocese.org or 785.827.8746

FAITH AUDIO: Did you know that we are making *faith* magazine available to listen to? Visit our podcast From the Heart to listen today.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

PARISH EVENTS: If you have any parish events you would like to have added to our diocese website calendar, please submit it by clicking "Submit Event" in the Quick links at the bottom of the website (salinadiocese.org) or clicking this link: <https://salinadiocese.typeform.com/to/Og6aB42a>

FROM THE HEART PODCAST: We have a new series on our podcast called Three Bald Guys! This series features Geoff Andrews, Bill Meagher and Fr. Jarett Konrade, who will talk about Evangelization, Education and more! Be sure to check out the latest episodes! "From the Heart Catholic Podcast" can be found on our diocese website and anywhere you listen to podcasts. Happy listening!

Follow us on social media!

Instagram: salina_diocese

Facebook: SalinaDiocese

Twitter: @SalinaDiocese

YouTube: Salina_Diocese or www.youtube.com/salinadioceseks

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA

WELCOME to seminarians Collin Thielen and Max Megaffin. The two men will be assisting with planning the seminarian dinner, as well as helping around the Chancery as needed. They started their summer with us June 13 and will stay through July 31.

WELCOME to Torrie Gregg who will be our new Development Assistant beginning August 1, 2022. When the Finance Office had a position open, Melanie offered to fill that role. We miss Melanie, even though she is just down the hall! But we are excited to have Torrie fill the vacant role. Torrie is not a new face to the diocese, as she has served as a Totus Tuus and Prayer and Action leader for three summers. Please be sure to welcome Torrie!

FOLLOW US! We are now live on Facebook, and you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/catholicfoundationfordioceseofsalina>. If your parish has a Facebook page, please make sure to follow the Foundation and we will follow you right back!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: The next (and final) letter will be mailed in late August. Please place the announcement below in your bulletins. As of 6/14, we have raised \$1,726,947 and are 86% towards our goal.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share is ongoing and will conclude Dec. 31, 2022. This appeal is important as it funds the mission and many ministries of our diocese. The appeal supports our seminarians and retired clergy. It also funds diocesan sponsored events such as the Men's Conference, Anniversary Masses, summer youth programs and our publications! There are so many things the diocese does, and a large part of what makes this possible is your generosity to the appeal. To make a gift, visit join.salinadiocese.org.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION FOR DIOCESE OF SALINA (cont.)

SEMINARIAN DINNERS: There are two dinners this year. These events allow parishioners to meet our current seminarians, hear all the good news from the Vocations Office and make a gift to directly support our seminarians! The team is currently gathering matches for the seminarian dinner and collection. We have \$85,000 committed in match dollars which is well on our way to a goal of \$100,000 in MATCH dollars. This is double what we had last year, and we hope our faithful will not only meet but exceed the match! We are looking forward to a great event. Sponsors are still needed to cover the cost of the meals for seminarians and their families. Those tickets are \$60, please contact the Foundation for more information.

Sample bulletin announcement below:

Did you know we will (hopefully) have nine seminarians this year? Would you like the chance to meet them? This year, there will be two Annual Seminarian Fundraising Dinners. The first is on August 10 at the Salina Country Club in Salina, and the second is on August 11 at The Strand in Hays. The evening includes a cocktail hour, delicious dinner and a short program. Both events begin at 5:15 P.M. The ticket price per person is \$60. To register, visit salinadiocese.org/events

SEMINARIAN COLLECTION: Will take place August 13-14. Envelopes for this collection should be in the envelope boxes received by each parishioner. Sample bulletin announcement below.

The annual seminarian collection is set for August 13-14. This collection is held in every parish across the diocese and supports the tuition, books and board and summer ministry expenses of our current seminarians, as well as recruitment of future seminarians. We hope to have nine seminarians for the 2022-2023 schoolyear. The average annual cost to educate one seminarian is \$50,000. To make an online gift, please visit: <https://salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-foundation/general-donations/>. Or feel free to make a gift via your parish envelopes.

Please process the donations as you normally would and submit the usual parish check to the Chancery. Please keep a record of who gave a gift and the amount given so we can send them a thank you. We ask that you send an excel spreadsheet with the following information to Laurie (laurie.trautwein@salinadiocese.org)

- First Name
- Last Name
- Parish
- Dollar Amount

#iGIVECATHOLIC: Advanced Giving is November 14. Giving Day is November 29. This year, Torrie Gregg will be the lead diocesan coordinator for the event. Please start brainstorming on potential match opportunities at the local level for your parish, school or organization. Data shows that having a matching or challenge gift makes a difference. Contact Katie Platten if you want to brainstorm ideas or just want more information on local matches. Additionally, perhaps you have a special project that you could promote through #iGC. Think outside the box! And have fun with it!

IN-PERSON DRE & CYO DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS: We will be finalizing these dates and locations shortly and will be getting them out to everyone. We are looking at mid-August for these meetings and will be holding them in each deanery. As soon as we have them set, they will be listed on our website, announced on social media and in the weekly newsletter.

CATACHETICAL INSTITUTE OF FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY: We are excited to announce a partnership with the Franciscan University of Steubenville beginning this fall. This is an opportunity for everyone in the diocese. The diocese will cover the program's cost so that everyone has an opportunity to grow in their faith, grow in skill and knowledge needed to help others, and even earn certifications. The program is at home, at your own pace, and has guidance/mentorship available. I am excited about what this could bring to our diocese.

There will be opportunities for you to earn three different levels of certification

Basic level Certification

Advanced level Certification

Master level Certification.

Certifications:

Directors of Religious Education Certification

Catholic School Administration Certification

Catholic School Catechist Certification

Parish Religious Education Catechist Certification

Jr. CYO/CYO Leadership Certification

RCIA Program Director/Catechist Certification

Parents as Catechist Certification

WE ARE MOVING TO THE ARK TEST TO REPLACE THE ACRE TEST this next year. I will be sending you a video to show the test, the data we get back from the test, and how the test can help us strengthen our programs in the next few months. It has some really exciting opportunities for us as a diocese. We will talk about this at the DRE Meetings this fall. The test will be given to every student in the diocese (public programs and catholic schools). We are excited to see the data and where we are strong and where we can grow to help the young people in our diocese better.

REMINDER: Weekly Newsletter-Please sign up if you are not already getting our weekly newsletter. This newsletter is the best way for a Parish Leader, DRE, or Jr CYO/ CYO leader to keep up with what is happening in our Salina Diocese Youth Ministry and Religious Education programs. You can sign up by using the link or scanning the QR Code

<http://eepurl.com/hMHHnj>



****YOU MAY HAVE TO CHECK IN YOUR JUNK FOLDER IF YOU HAVE SIGNED UP AND ARE NOT RECEIVING THIS WEEKLY ON MONDAYS. SOME PROGRAMS LOOK AT THIS AS SPAM AND YOU WILL PHYSICALLY HAVE TO GO IN THERE AND CLICK THAT IT IS NOT JUNK MAIL. LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP. ****

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

OUTREACH SERVICES: Catholic Charities Outreach Services vans will be bringing boxes of food and hygiene items, as well as diapers, laundry detergent and other necessities to individuals and families in Plainville, Oakley, Norton, WaKeeney, Russell, Ellsworth, Beverly, Wilson, Lincoln, Beloit, Osborne, Washington, Mankato, Concordia, Clay Center, Minneapolis, Abilene, Chapman, Oberlin, Hoxie, Belleville, Junction City and Herington. The Mobile Outreach Vans travel on every Wednesday each month. The July Outreach Services schedule is attached. You can also view the full, up-to-date Outreach Services schedule anytime at www.ccnks.org/outreach

GREEN TIE CELEBRATION: Catholic Charities is gearing up for our 17th Annual Fundraiser, the Green Tie Celebration, on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at the Salina County Club. Green Tie is all about celebrating the refreshing hope YOU provide to our neighbor in need across the 31 counties of northern Kansas every day. This life-changing event will feature live entertainment, dinner, impactful testimonials and a live auction. Even better, all gifts made to the Green Tie Celebration will be matched up to \$160,000, doubling your impact! To donate or learn more about the Green Tie Celebration, visit www.ccnks.org/greentie.

AMAZONSMILE CHARITY LISTS & WALMART REGISTRY FOR GOOD: Are you looking for a way to give directly to Catholic Charities food and hygiene programs? We have two exciting gift registries that make supporting these programs easier than ever. Our **AmazonSmile Charity Lists** and **Walmart Registry for Good** offer you an easy way to purchase the most needed food, hygiene, and baby items and ship them directly to our warehouse.

Simply visit www.ccnks.org/inkind and scroll to the bottom of the screen, where you will see links to both our Walmart and Amazon registries. Click the links to browse your preferred vendor for our food, hygiene, and baby lists. Once your selected items have been added to your cart, check out. These items will then ship directly to our Salina warehouse where they will be dispersed among our three locations and shared with our neighbors in need across northern Kansas. You're done – changing lives is as easy as that!

OFFICE OF NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

NATIONAL NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING AWARENESS WEEK is July 24-30, 2022, and is sponsored by the USCCB. This annual event always takes place during the week of the anniversary of Humanae Vitae and the feast day of Ss. Joachim and Anne. The [USCCB website](http://www.usccb.org) has many resources for pastors, family life coordinators and parishes. We have included a few of those resources in this month's SDNB for your convenience. Please consider recognizing the week in one or more ways at your parish.

- English and Spanish Posters (jpg and pdf)
- Social Media Image
- Prayer Petitions
- Homily Notes

OFFICE OF NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (cont.)

DIOCESAN VIRTUAL WEEK OF NFP: The Natural Family Planning Office will be hosting a series of virtual presentations throughout the week of July 24-30 in recognition of National NFP Awareness Week. All are encouraged to attend one or all these FREE sessions. Visit the diocesan NFP Office page for a detailed schedule: <https://salinadiocese.org/office/natural-family-planning/>

- Understanding *Humanae Vitae* with Fr. Brian Lager
- Creighton Model Introductory Session with the FertilityCare Practitioners of the Salina Diocese
- Embracing the Gift of Fertility couple's witness
- Medical Uses of Natural Family Planning

FERTILITYCARE WEBSITE: In addition to new pages on the diocesan website for the Natural Family Planning Office, the Diocese of Salina FertilityCare Services Center has recently updated its website. Take a look and share this resource with your parishioners: <https://salinafertilitycare.org/>

FERTILITYCARE SOCIAL MEDIA: The Diocesan FertilityCare Center can be found on both Facebook and Instagram as @salinafertilitycare. Be sure to follow!

MISCELLANEOUS

RETREAT: Please join us for a one-day retreat featuring Immaculee Ilibagiza on Saturday, November 19th, 2022 at 8:30 A.M. at St. Francis Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Register online at www.immaculee.com. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 K of C Convention, Nashville, TN, Aug. 1-5	2 VALUE THEM BOTH VOTE! Principals mtg., Hall of Bishops, 10am	3	4	5	6 St. Boniface, Tipton, Parish Picnic, 4pm
7	8	9 Jesu Caritas, Salina	10 Jesu Caritas, Salina Annual Seminarian Fundraising Dinner, Salina, 5:30pm, Salina Country Club	11 Annual Seminarian Fundraising Dinner, Hays, 5:30pm, The Strand,	12 Runnin' Revs BB game, Hays, 6pm	13 Seminarian Collection 11 th Annual Diocesan Men's Conference, IHM, Hays, 8am
14 Seminarian Collection Rural Life Day, St. Fidelis, Victoria	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary CHANCERY CLOSED	16	17	18 Clergy Health & Retirement mtg., 1:30pm Lay Review Board mtg., 4pm	19 Deacon Candidate Retreat, Great Bend, Aug. 19-21 Deacon Candidate Retreat-Great Bend Aug. 19-21	20 SDCCW Biennial Convention, St. Nicholas Parish, Hays, 11:00am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 St. John's Harvest Festival, Beloit, Mass at 4:30pm
28	29	30	31			

THE SHEPHERD

Safety Coordinator Recognition Award 2022

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine
and mine know me, Just as the Father
knows me and I know the Father; and I will
lay down my life for the sheep"
-John 10: 14-15

I would just like to take this opportunity to share with you this year's recipient of the Safety Coordinator Recognition Award. This award is given out each year in the month of April (Child Abuse Prevention Month) to a site Safety Coordinator who demonstrates full competence of the Safe Environment Program for the Diocese of Salina and is fully committed to the protection of children.

I am happy to announce this year's winner...

Janet Eubanks

The role of the Safety Coordinator is no small task. It is of great importance and each one serves as an extension of the Safe Environment Office at the Diocese as well as at the USCCB. Janet is very deserving of this award and is an invaluable member of the Safety Coordinator team at the Chancery and to the staff, parents, and students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help- Concordia. Please join me in congratulating Janet Eubanks.



*God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age You call
man to develop and use his gifts for the good of others. With Saint Joseph
as our example and guide, help us to do the work You have asked and
come to the rewards You have promised.*

*"Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood, remains in me and I in Him, says the Lord."
(John 6:56)*



Any allegation of the abuse of a minor,
may be reported to the
Kansas Protection Report Center
800.922.5330
KBI Crime Hotline
800.572.7463
or
ClergyAbuse@kbi.ks.gov
The Diocese of Salina fully
participates in all criminal
investigations related to
abuse perpetrated by a member
of the clergy or other church official.

For the safety of children and healing of
those who have suffered abuse, the Diocese
of Salina provides
Hotline: 866.752.8855 #1067
Website: www.reportandprotect.com
Email: reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
Reports will be responded
to promptly by the
Victim Assistance Coordinator.

*"Rescue me, Lord, from my foes,
for I seek refuge in you."
- Psalm 143:9*



Safe Environment Office
Diocese of Salina

To report an incident of sexual abuse
and related misconduct by a Bishop or
Religious Superior currently
or in the past,
the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting
Services provides
Hotline: 800.276.1562
Website: reportbishopabuse.org

All reports are confidential with the
exception of those involving the abuse of
minors which will be immediately reported
by the Diocese to the proper authorities, as
required by Kansas State Law and
Diocesan Policy.

NEWS AND NOTES

from the Safe Environment Office



In June, I had the opportunity to participate virtually in the 2022 National Child and Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference. (The conference was held live in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan). Each day was defined by a distinct theme:

Day One: Child Sexual Abuse - Challenges and Trends.

Day Two: Personal and Spiritual Renewal

Day Three: Investigating Clergy Abuse.

Even though I was only able to participate virtually, I felt through the key note speakers, panel discussions, and presentations, I was still able to gain some new knowledge about the important work of protecting God's children, as well as how to be more effective in our diocese. The Personal and Spiritual Renewal Day was very helpful, and hopefully I will be able to share some of those suggestions and ideas I learned, with all of you.

Please continue on this journey with me, as we promise to protect and pledge to heal.

"to serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy, a whole heart and a free mind."

PROMISE
To Protect



Pledge
To HEAL

Wendy Backes
Safe Environment
Program Coordinator
785.827.8746
wendy.backes@salinadiocese.org

Believe in
the possibility of
help and healing.
There is hope
reportabuse@salinadiocese.org
866.752.8855 ext. 1067
reportandprotect.com

Kim Hoelting
Human Resources
Director
785.342.0819
kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of SALINA

Catholic Charities Outreach Services

July 2022 Schedule

Families who qualify can receive a large box of food, hygiene items, diapers and wipes, and other supplies and services as needed. All are welcome!

Wednesday

7/6

Junction City - JC Naz Church
Smith Center - St Mary's Catholic Church
Phillipsburg - St. Philip & James
Norton - St Francis Catholic Church
Herington - St John Catholic Church
Osborne - St. Aloysius Catholic Church

9:00am - 10:00am
10:30am - 11:30am
11:00am-12:00pm
1:00pm - 2:00pm
1:00pm - 2:00pm
1:00pm - 2:00pm

Wednesday

7/13

Washington - St. Augustine Parish
Wakeeney - Christ the King Church
Ellsworth - St. Bernard Catholic Church
Mankato - St. Theresa Catholic Church
Oakley - Gateway Fellowship
Lincoln - LC County Health Department

9:30am - 10:30am
10:00am - 11:00am
11:30am-12:30pm
12:00pm - 1:00pm
12:30pm - 1:30pm
1:30pm - 2:30pm

Wednesday

7/20

Abilene - St. Andrew Parish
Beloit - St. John the Baptist Church
Hoxie - St. Frances Catholic Church
Oberlin - Gateway Civic Center
Clay Center - St. Peter & Paul Parish
Concordia - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

9:30am - 10:30am
9:30am - 11:15am
10:30am-11:30am
12:30pm - 1:30pm
1:00pm - 2:00pm
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Wednesday

7/27

Chapman - St. Michael Catholic Church
Russell - St. Mary Queen of Angels Church
Minneapolis - 200 Block of Sheridan St.
Belleville - St. Edward Parish
Plainville - Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Beverly - City Office of Beverly

9:00am - 10:00am
9:00am - 10:00am
10:30am-11:30am
1:00pm - 2:00pm
1:00pm - 2:00pm
12:30pm - 1:30pm



Any cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced by 4 p.m. the day before the scheduled outreach.

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone camera to view the full outreach schedule!





Called to the Joy of Love

salinafertilitycare.org

Natural Family Planning, Supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage





Llamados a la alegría del amor

salinafertilitycare.org

Planificación Familiar Natural, Apoya los dones de Dios de amor y vida en el matrimonio



National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week

Suggested Intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful

Feel free to adapt the intentions below to respond to the particular needs and concerns of your parish.

The Pope, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons

That Pope (*name here*) may be inspired by the Holy Spirit with the gifts of wisdom and familial love as he calls the Church to reverence marriage and the family, we pray to the Lord,

For Pope (*name here*), that the Lord God will strengthen and protect him as he proclaims God's design for human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for the Holy Father, that the Holy Spirit may fill him with His sevenfold gifts as he proclaims God's gifts of marriage and family to the world, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will enflame the hearts of the Holy Father (*name here*), the bishops, and clergy to teach God's truth about the nature of the human person, human sexuality, and the gift of marriage, we pray to the Lord,

For the Holy Father and the clergy, that the Holy Spirit will gift them with understanding and wisdom about the virtue of chastity and enable them to be heralds of this essential virtue that protects God's gifts of love and life and to which all people are called to live, we pray to the Lord,



For Bishop (*name your bishop here*), that he may never tire of proclaiming the beauty and freedom of God's design for married love to men and women, we pray to the Lord,

That Bishop (*name your bishop here*), may provide formation in the virtue of chastity to all the faithful and support (*or strengthen*) Natural Family Planning ministry in our diocese, we pray to the Lord,

For the bishops, that they may continue to teach God's truth about human sexuality, the nature of marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood, and help people to see the harm of contraception and promiscuity in our world, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit may give wisdom to Bishop (*name here*) as he instructs the faithful about the Father's design of marriage and married love, we pray to the Lord,



For all members of the clergy, that they may continue to devote themselves to promoting "the holiness of marriage, in order to guide married life to its full human and Christian perfection" (*HV 30*), we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit may empower priests and deacons to teach God's design for life and love, we pray to the Lord,

For priests and deacons: that in their service to the Church, they may raise awareness of Natural Family Planning and the importance of marriage and the family, we pray to the Lord,

For our priests and deacons: that they may boldly proclaim the beauty and freedom of the Church's teachings on marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for those clergy who boldly teach and preach about God's design for men, women, human sexuality, marriage, life and love, and the virtue of chastity, we pray to the Lord,



Lay Ecclesial Ministers

That the Holy Spirit may encourage lay ecclesial ministers and strengthen them to share God's truth about marriage and family life, we pray to the Lord,

For lay ecclesial ministers, that the Holy Spirit will grace them with the gifts to inspire and to support married couples to live Church teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for those lay ecclesial ministers who teach about the nature of human sexuality, the virtue of chastity, the nature of marriage, and Natural Family Planning, we pray to the Lord,

That the Lord God may gift all lay ecclesial ministers with right faith rooted in the Gospel and the Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church, we pray to the Lord,

That God will raise up lay ecclesial ministers to teach His truth about the nature of human sexuality, marriage, the virtue of chastity, and the ethical methods of Natural Family Planning, we pray to the Lord,



Government Officials

That Our Lord Jesus will help government leaders understand the great dignity of marriage as between a man and a woman, and that they will enact laws protecting and supporting marriage and families, we pray to the Lord,

For the President of the United States and government leaders, that God the Father may gift them with a profound reverence for the sacred role of parents and help them enact laws which safeguard the bond between parents and their children, we pray to the Lord,

That government policy makers may create laws to protect vulnerable families, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for policy makers who work to protect religious freedom and life from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord,

Natural Family Planning Ministry

For diocesan Natural Family Planning Ministry, that the Lord God will call people with a variety of talents and treasures to share in His work, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will fill Natural Family Planning ministers and teachers with renewed zeal as they teach couples about God's design for married love and the gift of life, we pray to the Lord,

For Natural Family Planning teachers, that the Holy Spirit will sustain them in their work and help them overcome all obstacles in sharing the good news of NFP, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for Natural Family Planning leaders and teachers, that the Lord God will continue to bless them and allow their work to flourish, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will support and sustain all NFP leaders and educators who seek to share God's gift of married love and life, we pray to the Lord,

Couples Preparing for Marriage

For engaged couples and couples discerning marriage, that they may welcome the Lord God into their relationship to discern His will for them, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit may gift engaged couples with understanding to see the harm of contraception and help them open their hearts to God's design for life and love, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples of reproductive age, that they may learn the methods of Natural Family Planning in order to honor and embrace God's gifts of married love and life, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving to married couples who in the unique setting of their lives struggle to follow God's plan and use Natural Family Planning methods, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving to those married couples who provide faithful witness to following God's design by living the Natural Family Planning lifestyle, we pray to the Lord,

Married Couples

For married couples, that they might always give witness to the truth and beauty of God's design for married love and in doing so, be instruments for the conversion of others, we pray to the Lord,

That husbands and wives will open their hearts to God's truth about the sacred transmission of life and embrace Natural Family Planning as the authentic way to honor God's plan in their marriages, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples, that Jesus may lead them to understand the gifts of sacrifice, forgiveness, and generosity as they grow in their love for each other, we pray to the Lord,

That the Lord God will gift husbands and wives with the grace to welcome new life into their families, we pray to the Lord,

That married couples may look to St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother as their patrons for establishing holy families centered on Jesus and filled with faith, hope, and love, we pray to the Lord,

For married couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship, that they may persevere in love and faithfulness to each other and reach out for help if needed, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for married couples who witness to God's never ending love, mercy, and generosity, we pray to the Lord,



Infertile Married Couples

For married couples experiencing difficulty achieving pregnancy, that they will be given the grace to understand God's plan for their spousal love, we pray to the Lord,

That God the Father will comfort and guide infertile couples as they discern His will for their marriages, we pray to the Lord,

For infertile married couples who have adopted children, that they may consider helping other infertile couples open their hearts to orphaned children, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will inspire the staff of diocesan marriage and family life offices to develop pastoral programs that help and support infertile married couples, we pray to the Lord,



Families

For families, that they may always live in the love of the Holy Trinity, and by doing so, be light to the world, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will strengthen all families by increasing each member's faith, fortifying their familial bond, and open their hearts to generously sharing their love with their neighbors, we pray to the Lord,

For families who suffer due to illness, poverty, violence or other hardships, that they may be given hope, support, and relief, we pray to the Lord,

That God the Father may comfort grieving families and grant them joy in the knowledge of their beloved's continued life in Him, we pray to the Lord,



Children

For children, that the hearts of all people will cherish, value, and protect them, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are disabled, that they may be loved and cared for by their families and neighbors, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will comfort and heal children who are sick, strengthen their parents to help them, and guide their physicians and nurses, we pray to the Lord,

For children who have been abandoned, that loving adoptive parents may welcome them into their homes, we pray to the Lord,

For children who are lost, that they may be found, we pray to the Lord,



Single Men and Women

For single men and women, that the Holy Spirit will gift them with a deep understanding of their individual vocations, we pray to the Lord,

That the Lord God will lead single men and women to generously share their talents and treasures with family,

For single men and women, that the Holy Spirit may give them the power to resist all forms of temptation that deny God's design for marriage, life and love, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for the single men and women who have shared their expertise on the science and methods of Natural Family Planning, we pray to the Lord,

Young People

For young people, that Our Blessed Mother will guide them to a deeper relationship with Jesus and that the Holy Spirit will help them see God's truth in the Catholic faith, we pray to the Lord,

That the Lord God will protect the integrity and innocence of young people as they grow in the faith and discern God's will in their lives, we pray to the Lord,

For young people, that wise and faithful adults will help them learn and embrace Church teachings on chastity, marriage and family life, we pray to the Lord,

For young adults, that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to embrace vocations to marriage, we pray to the Lord,

That young adults will reject promiscuity and embrace the virtue of chastity in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for those young leaders who have taken up the task to protect life and witness to their peers about the importance of the virtue of chastity, we pray to the Lord,

Health Care Professionals

For physicians, nurses, and scientists, that the Holy Spirit may lead them to a deeper understanding of human fertility so that they may better articulate "the conditions favorable to a lawful regulation of procreation" (*HV 24*), we pray to the Lord,

That the Lord God will call health care professionals to study and promote medical practices in accord with His divine law, we pray to the Lord,

For physicians, that they may renew their commitment to "do no harm" to their patients and reverence human life from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit will inspire health care professionals to promote the dignity of the person and further respect for human sexuality as designed by God, we pray to the Lord,

For Catholic physicians and nurses, that they may learn and promote the natural methods of family planning and encourage their patients to be open to life, we pray to the Lord,

For Catholic schools of medicine and nursing, that the Holy Spirit will move both faculty and students to study and embrace Church teachings on the human sexuality and the life issues, we pray to the Lord,

In thanksgiving for the many scientists, physicians, and nurses who have developed and promoted the methods of Natural Family Planning, we pray to the Lord,

Additional Intercessions

That all people will be renewed in their understanding and acceptance of chastity as that virtue which will help them protect their personal integrity and God's gifts of life and love, we pray to the Lord,

That the Holy Spirit may lead people who work in the media and entertainment industry to reject all projects that attack God's design for life and love, we pray to the Lord,

For Christians who work in the media and entertainment industry, that they may fill their environments with Gospel values and noble human ideals, we pray to the Lord,

For all people, especially our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and fellow Christians, that they may increase their support for families and come to recognize that all human life is a gift from God and a reason for joy, we pray to the Lord,

“CALLED TO THE JOY OF LOVE” NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Supporting God’s gifts of love and life in marriage.

**National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week
July 24–30, 2022**

Perry J. Cahall, Ph.D.

The sacrament of marriage symbolizes Christ’s relationship with His Church. What is this relationship but one of generous, self-sacrificing, passion-filled, and fruitful love! When married couples live their vocation according to Church teachings, especially regarding the transmission of life, many benefits can be reaped. Indeed, married couples who use Natural Family Planning (NFP) report that the benefits include growth in: understanding and appreciation of their fertility; emotional maturity—especially in their spousal communication; holiness; and respect for God’s gifts for married love.

The following are meant to aid the priest or deacon in planning his homily during NFP Awareness Week. The homily is not the place where details of NFP methodology are provided. The homily should include the core of the Church’s teachings that support NFP use in marriage with possibly some basic NFP information added.

Pastors should have NFP resources available in the church vestibule (contact your diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life Ministry or nfp@usccb.org). It would also be helpful to ask NFP teachers to staff information tables after Mass. For free resources, including short articles and two-page bulletin inserts for your parish, see usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/national-nfp-awareness-week. If you have a parish e-mail list, consider inserting NFP information with a link to the USCCB resources (usccb.org/nfp) and your diocese’s website (usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/directory-diocesan-marriage-family-life-directors-and-nfp).

NOTE: Natural Family Planning (NFP) is the umbrella title for those methods of family planning that are based in fertility education (sometimes NFP is referred to as “Fertility Awareness Based Methods” or FABMs). NFP methods can be used to either attempt or postpone conception. For avoiding conception, the use of NFP means periodic sexual abstinence. No devices or drugs are used to harm God’s design for married love. NFP methods call for husband and wife to learn, understand, and apply the information in their conjugal life. NFP methods are the only methods of family planning that support the married couple’s relationship and the child who may come from them. NFP methods respect God’s design for married love. Read more at usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/what-natural-family-planning.

HOMILY NOTES

Sunday, July 24, 2022

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Genesis 18:20–32

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138:1–2, 2–3, 6–7, 7–8

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Second Reading: Colossians 2:12–14

Gospel: Luke 11:1–13

Today's readings highlight that God is both infinitely just and infinitely merciful. In the first reading we see God in the process of rendering judgment against the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In these cities God's plan for sexuality has been cast aside and men had taken up having relations with men. The outcry against these cities for their grave sin has come to the ears of God. Yet, in the process of judging the sinfulness of the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah, we see both God's justice and his mercy. Abraham, concerned that God will wipe away the innocent with the guilty, questions God about the judgment he is about to render. Abraham asks God if He would spare the city of Sodom if there were but fifty, or forty-five, or forty, or thirty, or twenty, or ten innocent people left in the city. Each time God responds that he would spare the city for that number of people. This line of questioning shows that the judge of the world acts not only with justice, but also with mercy in that He is willing to allow the guilty to live for the sake of the innocent. Reading further into Genesis 19 we come to know that there was only one just man left in Sodom, Abraham's nephew Lot, and God seeks to rescue Lot and his family from the just judgment that the sins of the other residents faced. The fact that Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed for their heinous sins leads us to believe that the people there had willfully departed from God's plan for human love and allowed themselves to be thoroughly corrupted. They wanted no part of God's plan for human love.

Had the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah humbled themselves to call upon God for help, God would have answered, as the responsorial psalm proclaims. "God knows and is near to the lowly, but sees the proud from afar." And God's kindness endures forever to those who humble themselves before God. It is in refusing to humble themselves and follow God's design for human love that the proud residents of Sodom and Gomorrah meet their end.

St. Paul reminds us that we have been buried with Christ in our baptism, and have been raised to new life in him. Being alive in Christ we can always call out to God for help, knowing that we will be heard! The Gospel acclamation picks up on this theme in St. Paul to remind us that by dying and rising in Christ we have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, Father! We now have the unfathomable dignity of

being able to call ourselves children of God, and being able to turn to God as our loving Father who will always answer when we call for help!

In today's Gospel, Jesus himself teaches us to pray to God as our Father. Through a parable, Jesus exhorts us to be persistent in prayer, asking for what we need for ourselves and for others. Jesus shows us that to humble ourselves in offering persistent prayer God will give us gifts beyond our wildest dreams, because He gives us His very Spirit! This is a Gift of Joy that is unimaginable! It is a Gift that we could never have earned, but a Gift that is freely given to those who are baptized into the humility of Jesus. Thus, God shows that He is not only just, rendering to us what is due to our actions, but He is infinitely merciful, coming to meet us in our need.

The message of trusting in God's justice and mercy is fitting for this Sunday, which is the beginning of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week—a week during which married couples are encouraged to humbly embrace the truth of God's design for the life-giving love of marriage. This particular week is designated Natural Family Planning Awareness Week because it was fifty-four years ago on July 25th (tomorrow) that Pope Saint Paul VI issued his encyclical *Humanae vitae* (*On Human Life*). In this papal letter, Paul VI provided instruction on the responsible transmission of human life, describing the nature of married love as designed by God and reiterating the Church's unchanging teaching on the immorality of contraceptive behavior. Many people disagree with this teaching, but this is not surprising in a society that has grown forgetful of or even rejected God's plan for human sexuality and has readily accepted and promoted contraception as a form of liberation. However, in her teachings the Church simply preserves and proclaims God's beautiful design for married love. According to this design, married love involves a total mutual gift of self between a man and a woman, and the totality of this mutual gift means that their love is permanent, faithful, and fruitful. This includes having a disposition of openness to new life and trust in God's providence to support new life. This is a sacred responsibility, since from the beginning the Lord God entrusted husband and wife with the gifts of love and life!

When a husband and wife express their total, self-giving love for each other in the marital act, their bodies speak a “language” of mutual self-donation. Because the marital act is designed to express marital love, a husband and a wife are to give and receive all that they have to offer, including their fertility. Spouses should want to reverence God's design for their love and speak “the language of the body” in truth. This is where natural methods of regulating fertility differ strikingly from contraception. Natural Family Planning, or “NFP,” allows a couple to work responsibly with God to either achieve or avoid conception, while reverencing both the dignity of each other and the nature and dignity of the marital act. NFP allows a couple to give all of themselves, including their procreative potential, to each other in every marital act. If there is a reason to avoid a pregnancy, couples practicing modern methods of Natural Family Planning are able to identify when they are fertile and refrain from the marital act during that time. So, whenever a couple practicing NFP engages in the marital act they always speak the “language of the body” in truth.

The theme of this year's Natural Family Planning Awareness Week is "Called to the Joy of Love." Because NFP allows married couples to speak "the language of the body" in truth, it allows them to experience the joy of living according to God's design for spousal love. Following the message of today's readings, married couples are encouraged to humble themselves before God and embrace His plan for their love. Unlike the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah who cast aside God's plan for human sexuality, Christian married couples are called to reverence God's plan for marital love. Christian spouses should call out to God to help them follow his plan for their love, knowing that God is infinitely just and merciful. Christian spouses should know that being alive in Christ Jesus, they are children of a Father who will always come to their aid and assist them to find the joy of love.

Humbling themselves to live according to God's truth, a husband and wife have nothing to fear, and can have confidence that whatever effort is required to live according to the truth, God will make it worthwhile. Speaking the "language of the body" in truth will provide husband and wife with a deep sense of peace and joy, knowing that they never lie to each other in the most intimate form of communication possible between two human persons. God calls husband and wife to live in a manner that is worthy of their call as spouses who are married in the Lord, relying on the Holy Spirit to live as children of the Father. And, as they seek to follow the Lord and His plan for their love, Christian spouses can be confident in knowing that the God of justice and mercy will answer when they call upon Him for help. If married couples follow God's plan for their love, they have no reason to doubt that God will reward them with abundant gifts – the greatest of which is the joy that only the Holy Spirit can give!

Optional notes—please adjust per the needs of your parish

If you would like to learn more about Natural Family Planning, please pick up resources we have available in the vestibule on the information table (or in the display stands). You can also visit our diocesan website (*insert your web address here*) or that of the U.S. bishops' conference at usccb.org/nfp to learn more. or the parish website.

Today we have couples with us who teach and use NFP. They will be in the vestibule after Mass to answer your questions. I encourage you to visit with them!

Let us support each other in humbling following God's design for married love, and proclaim the truth of that love, knowing that only the truth that comes from God will lead to true joy!

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

A variety of Prayers of the Faithful can be downloaded at usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/awareness-week/upload/Generic-2019-NFP-Week-Petitions.pdf.

DAILY READINGS

Monday, July 25, 2022

FEAST OF SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7–15

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126:1BC–2AB, 2CD–3, 4–5, 6

Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing

Gospel: Matthew 20:20–28

As this is Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, and as today is the fifty-fourth anniversary of Pope Saint Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae vitae*, I want to relate the readings for today to the theme that the NFP Program of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has chosen for this week—"Called to the Joy of Love."

In the first reading St. Paul reminds us that in the earthen vessels of our bodies that are subject to persecution and death resides the power of God. Not only the death of Jesus but also the life of Jesus is manifested in our bodies! We have the spirit of faith that allows us to speak the truth of Christ. And we are empowered to speak that truth even through our bodies! This happens particularly when Christian spouses speak the truth of God's life-giving love in the marital act.

The responsorial psalm reminds us that those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. Even if we feel that (or: as if) we have been held captive by our sinfulness, by accepting the grace of repentance the Lord can rescue us from our sinful exile and give us a share in His joy! This type of joy is possible for a married husband and wife to experience in their love for each other, even if they have succumbed to the worldly temptation of contraception. God wants them to experience the joy of living in His love and embracing His plan for married love!

In today's Gospel, Jesus interacts not only with the Apostles James and John, but with their mother. On this Feast of Saint James, Jesus teaches us that regardless of what James and John and their mother thought, following him does not lead to worldly prominence. Instead, following him entails selfless commitment to serving God and our neighbor. The selfless service that Christian spouses can offer to God, each other, and the world is to live in accord with God's plan for the married love, which involves maintaining the inseparable link between procreation and loving union in each marital act.

For Christian spouses, relying on the help of the Holy Spirit to speak truth through their bodies, being willing to return from the exile of sin to the truth of love, and selflessly serving God's plan for married love will always lead to joy—guaranteed!

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

Merciful Father, help us to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit within us to enable us to proclaim Your truth always. In particular, inspire Christian spouses to always speak the truth of married love through their bodies, by revering your design for the marital embrace. We pray to the Lord,

Gracious God, through the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, empower Christian spouses to embrace a life of selfless service to you, to each other, and to the gift of life itself. We pray to the Lord,

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

MEMORIAL OF SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

NB: In the Church this is also “World Grandparents Day”

Reading: Jeremiah 14:17–22

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, and 13

For the glory of your name, O Lord, deliver us.

Gospel: Matthew 13:36–43

Both the first reading and the psalm are pleas to the Lord for deliverance. Acknowledging the sins that have led to the sorry state of exile from their homeland, both the prophet Jeremiah and the psalmist, acknowledge the greatness of the Lord and beg Him to deliver His people from the suffering and subjugation of exile. Jeremiah implores the Lord to remember His covenant with His people, and the psalmist begs the Lord to pardon their sins.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus likens the good seed that the Son of Man sows to the children of the Kingdom. These children are those who avoid sin and the influence of the Devil. During this Natural Family Planning Awareness week, we should remind ourselves that being children of the Kingdom means rejecting the evil influences of our culture that tempt us to reject God’s gifts of life and love in marriage. Being God’s people means acknowledging the greatness of God, admitting our sinfulness, and asking for the Lord’s forgiveness when we have strayed from His path of love. Married couples need to acknowledge God’s greatness and live according to the truth of the marriage covenant that reflects God’s life-giving love. In doing so, Christian spouses will avoid the fate of the exile suffered by God’s people in the Old Testament as well as the fate of the weeds in today’s Gospel. Our gracious God, whose name is glorious and who alone is our savior, will always come to the aid of those who call upon Him to deliver them.

Today, on the Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and therefore the grandparents of Jesus, the Church also celebrates World

Grandparents Day. Grandparents are a source of unconditional love for grandchildren and a source of wisdom for the family. They serve as a living memory of God's graciousness and a living example of how God dotes on each of us as His children. May God bless and strengthen grandparents to witness to the truth of His love, and encourage their progeny to follow God's plan for human love.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

Merciful Father, grant all of us forgiveness for the times we have departed from your covenantal love, offered to all through your Son, Jesus Christ. In particular, help married couples to ask for forgiveness and healing for any time they have departed from Your life-giving plan for the covenant of marriage. We pray to the Lord,

Gracious God, help all of us, especially married couples, to reject the influence of the culture of death that leads to exile, and embrace Your gifts of love and life. We pray to the Lord,

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Reading: Jeremiah 15:10, 16–21

Responsorial Psalm: 59:2–3, 4, 10–11, 17, 18

God is my refuge on the day of distress.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44–46

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the Kingdom of Heaven by comparing it to buried treasure or fine pearls that are worth selling everything we have so that we can acquire them. Each of us needs to be willing to give everything we have and everything we are to enter God's Kingdom, which is the only place we will find true happiness and joy. The prophet Jeremiah gave everything he had and everything he was in service to God, and in the first reading we see Jeremiah bemoaning the opposition and the torment he faced as he proclaimed God's word to His people. Jeremiah cries out to the Lord who reassures Jeremiah that if Jeremiah remains steadfast in the Lord that the Lord will deliver and rescue Jeremiah. As the responsorial psalm proclaims, the Lord is Jeremiah's true refuge and stronghold. God alone is the source of true joy, and he is worth giving everything for.

If we give everything to enter the Kingdom, we will enter into God's presence, and become radiant with joy. During this Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, married couples should consider how they can give fully of themselves to enter into the joy of God's Kingdom. Married love is a beautiful, yet demanding love. It is a love that requires a mutual and total gift of self, which sometimes entails sacrifice, or in the language of today's Gospel, "selling all we have." When the self-giving love of marriage is expressed in the conjugal act, married couples give and receive the totality of themselves, holding nothing back, including their procreative potential. We are not our

own. We belong to a God of love, and this loving God has created the marital act to unite a man and a woman in a mutual gift of self that is open to life. We need to trust in God's beautiful plan for married love, and trust that if we follow it this plan will lead to the true joy of the Kingdom. In reality, true joy is only found when we choose to live according to the truth that comes from God, so that we may enter into His Kingdom. Walking in the way of truth may not always be easy, as Jeremiah shows us, and it may cost us all that we are, but it will always be worth it.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

May married couples give all that they are in the service of God's Kingdom. We pray to the Lord,

May married couples recognize the treasure that they have in each other and in God's gift of the life-giving love of marriage. We pray to the Lord,

Thursday, July 28, 2022

Reading: Jeremiah 18:1–6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:1B–2, 3–4, 5–6AB

Blessed is he whose help is in the God of Jacob.

Gospel: Matthew 13:47–53

Today we continue to here from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Today's reading reminds us that we are like clay in God's hands. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the Kingdom of heaven with the image of a fishing net, noting that only the good fish will be retained, while the bad will be cast aside. During this Natural Family Planning Awareness week, married couples should pray for the grace to allow themselves to be molded by God into the husbands and wives He wants them to be. This includes allowing God to mold their hearts according to His plan for married love. In order to be properly molded, Christian spouses should not be afraid of approaching Jesus to ask him to re-mold their hearts. And, if you have fallen into the practice of using contraception, do not fear approaching Jesus to ask him to help mold you in a different pattern of behavior. Instead, profess anew your faith and your trust in Jesus by seeking his healing and his strength in the Sacrament of Confession where he can begin to mold your hearts. Commit to embracing his plan for your love and experience the re-fashioning of your marriage. Let us all commit to following Jesus' plan of love in our lives so that we can remain in the net of the Kingdom.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

May married couples renew their faith in Jesus, and allow him to mold their hearts according to his design for married love. We pray to the Lord,

May married couples embrace Natural Family Planning as a means of allowing themselves to be molded by the hands of the Divine Potter. We pray to the Lord,

Friday, July 29, 2022

MEMORIAL OF SAINTS MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS

Reading: Jeremiah 26:1–9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 69:5, 8–10, 14

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Gospel: John 11:19–27

Today, we again hear Jeremiah speaking for God, warning God's people to live according to the law God has placed before them. We also see the peoples of Judah taking offense at Jeremiah, indignantly rejecting this warning, and seeking to put Jeremiah to death for speaking the truth. Further, we here the responsorial psalm stating that those who speak God's truth may have to endure insults and wrongful accusations and to be ostracized, as happened to Jeremiah.

During this Natural Family Planning Awareness week, we need to ask ourselves if we have taken offense at the Church for proclaiming the God's plan for the marital act. Have we been indignant when presented with the Church's teaching on contraception, instead of abiding in the law of God that seeks our happiness and our freedom? Have we become so attached to our contraceptives that we hurl insults and harbor resentment against those who proclaim the truth about married love? Instead of resisting God's plan for sexual loving, we need to allow zeal for God's house to consume us, reject the evil of contraception, proclaim the goodness of natural family planning, and call on the Lord to answer us in His love, even when we face opposition in proclaiming the truth!

In today's Gospel, read on the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, Martha professes faith in Jesus, proclaiming him to be the Son of God who has the power to raise her brother Lazarus from the dead. Jesus, who is in our midst, always seeks to raise us to new life, not just at the end of time, but now. He desperately desires to help us conquer sin in our lives and to give us the fullness of life in his love. He desperately wants us to speak and live the truth so that we can find the true joy of love! He wants us to leave our contraceptives in the tomb, and experience a renewed joy-filled life!

[NB: If Lk 10:38–42 is read, the last following notes could be used]

In today's Gospel, read on the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, we see Mary sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to his every word. Martha has busied herself with so many things that perhaps she has overlooked this most important aspect of life. This can happen to us too. Mary's posture of eager listening, is the opposite of the people to whom Jeremiah spoke. Far from taking offense at the truth proclaimed by Jesus, Mary

adopts a disposition of eager and humble acceptance of the truth. Once she accepts this truth, nothing and no one can take it away from her, nor can the joy of abiding in the truth be stolen from her. Similarly, may married couples eagerly listen and live according to God's truth about the live-giving love of the marital embrace, and thereby find the joy of love!

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

May married couples not take offense at Jesus, but instead embrace his plan for married love. We pray to the Lord,

May we open our ears, our minds, and our hearts to receive the good news about the life-giving love of marriage that Jesus teaches through his Church. We pray to the Lord,

Saturday, July 30, 2022

Reading: Jeremiah 26:11–16, 24

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 69:15–16, 30–31, 33–34
Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Gospel: Matthew 14:1–12

Since Tuesday our first readings have been from the prophet Jeremiah. Today, we see the priests, prophets, princes, and all the people conspiring to kill Jeremiah for preaching God's truth to them. Jeremiah, confident in the truth that God had sent him to proclaim, says to those who oppose him, "Listen to the voice of the Lord your God!"

The Gospel for today recounts how John the Baptist, the greatest of the prophets leading up to the coming of Jesus, met his end. John, like Jeremiah, preached the truth in the face of opposition, (in John's case, about God's plan for marriage), and zeal for God's truth clearly governed his life more than did the threats of Herod or any other worldly power.

On this final day of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, let us pray for ears that can listen to the voice of the Lord, even when we hear truths that we may view as "hard" or "difficult." Let us call on the Lord, asking for the grace to form our lives around His truth, knowing that He will answer us.

Reverence for the beauty of God's design for human love and for the marital embrace is essential for couples to live truly happy marriages, and for society to flourish. Natural Family Planning promotes reverence for God's plan and safeguards the dignity of spouses and spousal love. May we all be filled with the confidence and zeal for God's plan for married love and proclaim it unabashedly through our words and our actions!

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

That God will give married couples the ears to hear His voice, so they may live out God's plan for their love instead of capitulating to societal influences. We pray to the Lord,

That married couples will reject contraceptive lifestyles and embrace Natural Family Planning as part of living God's plan for spousal love. We pray to the Lord,

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Perry J. Cahall, Ph.D., theologian, husband, and father is professor of Historical Theology and Academic Dean of the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in the Diocese of Columbus.

Please join us for a one-day retreat featuring
Immaculee Ilibagiza



This Rwandan-American author and motivational speaker will share her testimony of discovering God while surviving the 1994 Rwandan Massacre through the help of her deep Catholic faith and love for our Blessed Mother. You will be inspired as she shares her story of forgiveness, healing, & hope.

St. Frances Cabrini Church

924 17th Street

Hoxie, KS 67740

Saturday, November 19, 2022

8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Register at www.immaculee.com

Tickets \$57 each or 2 tickets for \$76

Lunch will be provided

Mass will be offered at 4pm for attendees

Contact for more information:

Chris Niblock at 785-675-8703 tubandchris@ruraltel.net

Jacqui Haffner at 785-675-1608 57classic@catholic.email

Marty Cressler at 785-675-8765 martycressler@hotmail.com