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[Bishops](#) [Dioceses](#)

Pro-Life Activities

DIOCESAN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING MINISTRY NATIONAL PROFILE

2004 REPORT

**DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Issued October 2005**

**DIOCESAN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING MINISTRY
NATIONAL PROFILE**

2004 Report

OVERVIEW

In April of 2005, 190 dioceses were invited to participate in the annual *NFP Program National Profile* survey of diocesan natural family programs. This was the first year that participants could complete the *Profile* online. The resultant data base will assist the DDP/NFP office to more effectively analyze NFP trends each year. Seventy or 37% of the dioceses submitted data either electronically or by mail. As in previous years, the following data “snapshot” indicates that certain aspects of NFP programs remain relatively unchanged with slight improvement in some areas.

- # Many dioceses include NFP in their programs of marriage preparation (75%). However, most newly married couples failed to take full advantage of natural family planning in their conjugal life. This assumption is strongly suggested when one compares the total number of marriages in the Church (232,060¹) with the total number of individuals (9,287²) as reported in the survey that took a full course of instruction in NFP. Obviously, more must be done to inspire couples to fully embrace the Gospel of life.
- # A couple of dioceses and increasing numbers of individual priests require engaged couples to take a full NFP course of instruction before marriage. Other dioceses are considering adding a full NFP course of instruction in their marriage preparation guidelines.
- # When viewed nationally, diocesan NFP programs vary from comprehensive to nonexistent. Some dioceses have very strong educational programs that integrate NFP into all educational efforts on human sexuality, marriage, and family life. Through hard work and dedication, other dioceses have made tremendous strides in improving the quality of their NFP programs in order to meet the *Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry*. But across the nation, as one diocese improves its NFP program, another may experience a reduction in program size through teacher loss, budget cuts, and/or diocesan restructuring.

¹(2004), *The Official Catholic Directory*.

²See, 2004 *Profile*, Q.22.

- # From diocese to diocese there is a wide range in the diocesan funding of NFP programs. Thirty-six percent of dioceses surveyed budgeted less than \$5,000 for NFP programs in 2004. Forty-eight percent of all NFP diocesan programs operate on less than \$10,000 per year, while 30% have annual budgets of \$10,000 to \$29,000. Twenty-two percent of dioceses spend from \$30,000 to more than \$70,000 for their NFP programs. In some dioceses NFP instruction is covered by insurance plans. In most dioceses, NFP programs share funding, materials, and staff support of an umbrella department, e.g., Marriage and Family Life Office.
- # Typically, NFP is not identified as a specific line item in diocesan budgets. Less than half (46%) of diocesan NFP programs are asked to submit an annual report.
- # Volunteers are the unsung heroes of diocesan NFP programs. The majority of diocesan NFP programs (77%) depend on volunteers to sustain their programs. A little over a third (37%) of the dioceses give modest stipends to cover personal costs, e.g., transportation, baby sitters, materials, etc.
- # There has been slight overall improvement in the amount of scheduled time dedicated to NFP in marriage preparation programs. The time given to NFP is not lengthy; in 84% of Pre-Cana programs, it is less than one hour. The majority of diocesan marriage preparation programs make some effort to provide at least rudimentary NFP information to various groups, with special attention directed toward couples preparing for marriage, e.g., booklets, fact-sheets, witness couple talks and NFP course instruction. Through NFP introductory sessions more than 76,789 individuals received basic information on NFP.

Finally, the pastoral question that must be faced when examining each diocesan NFP effort is: *Can couples who wish to be faithful to Church teaching on responsible parenthood readily get the NFP support they need?* The answer to this question will determine how best to plan and support local diocesan NFP ministry.

I PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

1) The (arch)diocesan NFP Program is: *(check one)*

- 67% Part of the office of Marriage and Family Life
- 06% A service of one of our Catholic hospital(s)
- 06% Part of Catholic Charities
- 04% Its own department
- 17% Other N=70

2) Who is responsible for coordinating NFP Ministry? *(e.g., Family Life Director, NFP Coordinator, Respect Life Director, etc.)*

- 58% Diocesan NFP Coordinator
- 27% Family Life Director
- 03% Director of Catholic Charities
- 08% Other: Director of Christian Service, Department of Education, etc.
- 04% No person designated N=66

How long have you been the NFP coordinator?

The person responsible for coordinating NFP ministry has held the position for an average of 7.5 years. The range is from less than 1 year to over 25 years. The majority have held their position for 5 years or less.

N=40

3) For this position, NFP work is: *(check one)*

- 38% One part of full-time responsibilities
- 12% Full-time, paid
- 0% Full-time, volunteer
- 39% Part-time, paid
- 11% Part-time, volunteer N=70

4) Is the NFP coordinator trained in NFP methodology? *(check one)*

- 81% Yes
- 19% No N=70

- 5) If the answer to question (4) is “Yes,” for which of the following roles was the NFP coordinator trained? (*check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

32 Teacher 45 User 43 Promoter

- 6) If you answered question (5), please indicate which school(s) of NFP trained the coordinator? (*check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

20 Billings Ovulation Method Association (BOMA)

14 Couple to Couple League (CCL)

11 Creighton Model FertilityCare™ Center

08 Northwest Family Services

26 Diocesan NFP Teacher Training Program

05 Family of the Americas Foundation

- 7) How many NFP teachers are part of the (arch)diocesan program? (*Count teaching couples as two*)

Total: 781

N=50

- 8) Which statement best describes the NFP program policy regarding remuneration of its teachers? (*Check one*)

37% Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We give them a stipend to cover expenses.

40% Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We do not give them a stipend.

13% We pay our NFP instructors (*part and/or full time*).

10% Salaries/stipends for instructors are provided by other sources (*e.g., Catholic Hospital, Knights of Columbus, etc.*).

N=68

- 9) Which organization trains the (arch)diocesan teachers? (*check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

37 Billings Ovulation Method Association (BOMA)

34 Couple to Couple League (CCL)

08 Creighton Model FertilityCare™ Center

28 Diocesan Teacher Training program

13 Family of the Americas Foundation

23 Northwest Family Services

- 10) Does the (arch)diocese have an NFP Advisory Committee?

35% Yes 65% No

N=69

- 11) Do you prepare an annual diocesan report on NFP ministry?

46% Yes 54% No

N=70

II PROGRAM BUDGET

- 12) What was the total operating budget for NFP ministry last year? (*estimate should include salaries, stipends, postage, materials, etc.*)

0% \$0
12% \$1-999
24% \$1,000 - 4,999
12% \$5 - 9,999
30% \$10 - 29,999
06% \$30 - 49,999
16% \$50 - 69,999+

N=67

- 13) Of the total operating budget for NFP ministry, how much was directly funded by the diocese last year?

03% \$0
16% \$1-999
33% \$1,000 - 4,999
09% \$5 - 9,999
22% \$10 - 29,999
09% \$30 - 49,999
08% \$50 - 69,999+

N=67

- 14) How much additional money was generated by all NFP activities? (e.g., introductory sessions, class fees, seminars, materials, etc.).

25% 0
26% 1-999
27% 1,000-4,999
11% 5,000-9,999
11% >10,000+

N=62

- 15) Is there a separate fee for an introductory session? (*check one*)

31% Yes 69% No

N=68

The average fee for an introductory session is less than \$30.00. The amount charged varied from a low of \$5.00 to a high of \$50.00 depending on materials and length of the introductory session(s).

- 16) Do you charge a fee for a full course in NFP? (*Check one*)

91% Yes 9% No

N=68

- 17) If the answer to question (16) is “Yes”, how is a separate fee determined for a full course in NFP? (*Check one*)

36% (Arch)diocese NFP determine fees
36% Individual NFP provider determines fees
20% Combination of (arch)diocesan staff and individual NFP provider determine fees
08% Other

N=61

- 18) How much is charged to clients/couples for a full course in NFP? (*If amounts vary, give average*)

0% \$0
09% \$1-25
12% \$26-45
23% \$46-65
30% \$66-85
07% \$86-100
19% \$101

N=57

Most courses cost over \$50.00 in order to cover the cost of materials. The charge varied from nothing to a high of \$540.00, depending on materials, length of course, and the number of follow-up services required.

- 19) Is a separate fee charged for follow-up? (*Check one*)

24% Yes 76% No

N=63

The average charged for a follow-up is \$25.00. The amount varied from \$0 to \$45.00

III PROGRAM SERVICE

- 20) Which NFP method(s) is currently taught in the (arch)diocesan program? (*Check all that apply*)

(*Frequency*)

48 Cervical Mucus Method
59 Sympto-Thermal Method

- 21) How many individuals (couples count as two) in the (arch)diocese received an introductory/promotional talk on NFP during the last twelve months?

More than 76,789 individuals received some information/instruction on NFP.

N=68

- 22) How many individuals (couples count as two) in the (arch)diocese attended NFP class/instruction during the last twelve months?

More than 9,287 individuals attended a class/instruction on NFP.

N=66

- 23) Does the (arch)diocese have guidelines for marriage preparation?

99% Yes 01% No

N=70

- 24) If the answer to question (23) was “Yes,” is NFP included in the guidelines for marriage preparation?

75% Yes 25% No

N=69

- 25) On average how much time is allowed for NFP education in marriage preparation programs? (*Give your best estimate*)

16% 0 minutes - 15 minutes
33% 16 minutes - 30 minutes
22% 31 minutes - 45 minutes
13% 46 minutes - 1 hour
17% 1 hour - 2 hours+

N=69

26) Does the (arch)diocese require an introductory session to NFP for the engaged? (*Check one*)

34% Yes 66% No

N=68

27) If the answer to question (26) is “Yes”, how much time is allotted to the required NFP introductory session?

13% 30 minutes

22% 45 minutes

48% 1 hour - 2 hours

17% Other, e.g., “one day NFP seminar,” etc.

N=23

28) If the answer to question (26) is “Yes”, what is the content of the required NFP introductory session? (*Check all that apply*)

(Frequency)

25 The appropriate Church teachings

17 Reproductive anatomy & physiology

23 Basic NFP science (e.g., *all the signs of fertility discussed*)

20 Basic NFP methodology (e.g., an overview of all the specific NFP systems offered in your diocese)

25 Benefits of NFP

23 Contraindications of various contraceptives

18 NFP witness talk

29) Does the (arch)diocese require an NFP *course* for engaged couples? (*Check one*)

03% Yes 97% No

N=69

30) Is the (arch)diocese moving toward mandating a full course of NFP instruction for engaged couples? (*check one*)

16% Yes 84% No

N=62

**Gratitude is extended to the following dioceses
for participating in the 2004 *Profile* survey**

Allentown, Altoona-Johnstown, Amarillo, Austin, Baton Rouge, Boston, Camden, Charleston, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Corpus Christi, Detroit, Duluth, Erie, Evansville, Fall River, Fargo, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Gary, Green Bay, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Hartford, Houma-Thibodaux, Jefferson City, Kalamazoo, Kansas City, KS, La Crosse, Las Cruces, Lincoln, Los Angeles, Louisville, Marquette, Memphis, Metuchen, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New Ulm, New York, Newark, Norwich, Ogdensburg, Orlando, Owensboro, Palm Beach, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, ME, Portland, OR, Rapid City, Rockford, Rockville Centre, St. Cloud, St. Louis, St. Paul-Minneapolis, Salina, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, Scranton, Sioux City, Spokane, Superior, Tucson, Washington, DC, Wichita, Yakima.

Program Resources

The following documents are useful in strengthening diocesan NFP programs.

Diocesan Plan for Natural Family Planning Program Development. Washington, DC: Diocesan Development Program for NFP, 1981. (Available from the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities; Orders, 1-866-582-0943.)

Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Office of Publishing and Promotion Services, 2000. (Available from USCCB Publishing; 1-800-235-8722; #5-357.)

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