



Family Connections



A monthly publication of the
Office of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life in the Diocese of Austin

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NFP AWARENESS WEEK

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has named July 23-29, 2006 “NFP Awareness Week.” Included with this month’s parish mailing are two double sided posters (English/Spanish) that can be used to promote Natural Family Planning in your parish. Also included are flyers on the Seton/Diocese of Austin NFP Service Program and an announcement regarding the NFP Open House, to be held at Seton McCarthy Community Health Center , 2811 East 2nd Street in Austin, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Additional NFP Awareness Week resources can be found online at www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/.

NFP Now More Available!

At the end of April, 11 new teachers were trained in the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning. This effectively **doubles** our number of Natural Family Planning teachers in the Diocese of Austin. The availability of Spanish-language NFP classes has also increased, as a number of our new NFP teachers are bilingual. For more information on upcoming NFP classes in the Diocese of Austin, call Clara Urias, NFP Coordinator at (512) 324-4930, ext. 12911 or e-mail CUrias@Seton.org.

NEW MARRIAGE PREPARATION TEAM IN WESTERN DEANERY

This past April, twenty couples from parishes in the Western Deanery were trained as facilitators for the “Together in God’s Image” diocesan marriage preparation program. Using the facilitators’ manuals, DVDs and the couples’ workbooks in English and Spanish, this new Western Deanery marriage preparation team will be able to present the “Together in God’s Image” program to couples in the Western part of the diocese. For information on how to bring

“Together in God’s Image” to your parish or deanery, call Dr. Joseph White, Director of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life, at (512) 726-0416.

THE SUNDAY READINGS AND FAMILY LIFE



July 2nd – This week’s Gospel reading describes Jesus reaching out in compassion to those who are ill and suffering. How can we, as families, reach out to someone who is sick?

July 9th – Real faith means trusting in God even when it’s difficult to see him working. In what situation in our family life can we pray for an increase of faith, trusting that God’s strength will be perfected in our weakness?

July 16th – This week, let’s resolve as a family to take opportunities to act in kindness towards others and to graciously receive kindness from others.

July 23rd – Sheep know their master and listen to his voice. Do we follow Christ like sheep? Do we sometimes follow other shepherds as well (society, etc)? How can our family be more faithful in listening to Jesus, the Good Shepherd?

July 30th – God is the provider of the things we need. What are some needs God has met in the life of our family? What does our family need right now?

PARENTING POINTERS FOR JULY by Susan Vogt

July 7: A "summer job jar" can be a sanity strategy for bored kids and tired parents. Write about 50 simple jobs on slips of paper and put in a jar. Each weekday your child

picks one and has to do it before dinner. See www.SusanVogt.net Summer Enrichment Activity for more details.

July 14: Another summer sanity strategy: Consider instituting a "quiet hour" each day, (perhaps after lunch). Children go to a bedroom to nap, read, play quietly, or daydream. They don't have to sleep, but you might want to.

July 21: We offer plenty of unsolicited advice to our kids as they're growing up - and to our surprise, sometimes they even take it! Once they're grown though, it can be hard to hold our tongues. Try these three things: 1. Don't offer advice unless you're asked. 2. Don't be critical of decisions made by your children or their spouses. 3. If they do ask your opinion, say, "Here's how I'd do it..." rather than, "Here's what you should do." (Family Minute by Mark Merrill)

July 28: You don't have to be on vacation to take photos. Try getting the family together for a silly pose. Send to out of town relatives by e-mail or snail mail.

Natural Family Planning

Classes in the Sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning are offered by the **Couple to Couple League**. For class dates, times, and locations see <http://austin.ccli.org> or call Robert and Kelly Tavarez at 358 5204.

The NFP Center of Austin also offers classes in the Creighton Model of Natural Family Planning. For times, dates, and locations or to register for Creighton Model NFP classes, call the NFP Center at 474-2757 (outside Austin, call toll-free at 1-888-590-2757).

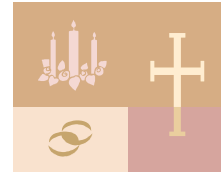
WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience designed to give married couples the opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It's a chance to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God. It's a time to share their feelings, hopes and dreams with each other. The

next Marriage Encounter weekend will be held August 11-13th, 2006. For more information or to register for the weekend, please call Mike or Renee Furtado at (512) 396-3620.

Together in God's Image

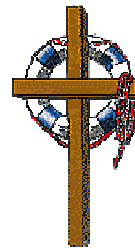


DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREP

The July and August "Together in God's Image Sessions are full, and September and October sessions are filling fast. Registration information and forms are now posted online at http://austindiocese.org/department_home.php?id=11.

Retrouvaille

HELP FOR STRUGGLING COUPLES



Retrouvaille is a program to help couples in troubled marriages heal and renew their marriage relationships through a weekend retreat format. The next Retrouvaille retreat **in English** will be held in Austin on August 11th. For more information or to register for the program, please call Chuck and Gean Townsley at (512) 388-3433.

A Retrouvaille retreat **in Spanish** will be held on August 18th. For more information or to register for the program, please call Terry and Pat Martin at (512) 656-2644.

The mission of the office of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life is to provide services that affirm the sacredness of life, the sanctity of marriage, the sacramentality of the family, and a Christian lifestyle, through all phases of human growth and development. For more information on supports and resources for families in the Diocese of Austin, contact Dr. Joseph White, Director of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life, at (512) 873-7771, or by e-mail at joseph-white@austindiocese.org.

Natural Family Planning



The Diocese of Austin, local NFP Providers,
And

the Seton Community Health Clinics

Invite You to Attend an

NFP Open House

Thursday, July 20, 2006

5:30 — 8:30 p.m.

Seton McCarthy Community Health Center

2811 East 2nd Street

Austin, TX 78702

Natural Family Planning Service Program

**A Collaborative Effort Between
the Seton Community Health Clinics and
the Diocese of Austin**

The Natural Family Planning (NFP) Service Program exists to develop fertility awareness and appreciation and to increase access to modern NFP methods.

The program:

- Serves as a clearinghouse by gathering, processing, and distributing information about Natural Family Planning;
- Coordinates educational and informational events;
- Networks parishes, individuals and NFP providers in the Diocese of Austin; and
- Develops new resources for the community.



NFP ... it's natural. It's wholesome. It's effective.

**Build stronger marriages.
Learn how to bring NFP to your community.**

Contact:

Clara Urías, NFP Coordinator
Seton McCarthy Community Health Clinic
2811 East Second Street
Austin, TX 78702
512-324-4930, ext. 12911
FAX 512-324-4929
curias@seton.org

Programa de Planificación Natural de la Familia

Un Esfuerzo Conjunto de las Seton Community Health Clinics y La Diócesis de Austin

El Programa de Planificación Natural de la Familia (PNF) existe para promover el conocimiento y la apreciación de la fertilidad humana y para incrementar el acceso a los nuevos métodos de planificación natural.

El programa:

- Se encarga de obtener, procesar y distribuir información acerca de la PNF;
- Coordina eventos educativos e informativos;
- Establece una red de comunicación entre parroquias, individuos y proveedores de servicios de Planificación Natural de la Familia en la Diócesis de Austin; y
- Desarrolla nuevos recursos de PNF para la comunidad.



**La PNF ... es natural. Es integral.
Es efectiva.**

**Construya matrimonios más fuertes.
Aprenda como puede llevar la Planificación
Natural de la Familia a su comunidad.**

Contacte a:

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