

DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

A Program of the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities

DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM - PROFILE
2000 SUMMARY



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DIOCESAN NFP PROGRAM - PROFILE 2000 REPORT

Diocesan NFP Program - National Profile

In the Fall of 1990, the Diocesan Development Program (DDP) initiated an annual national survey. Diocesan NFP coordinators or contact persons were asked to complete a Profile questionnaire that would:

1. Give the DDP a clear understanding of diocesan NFP efforts, by focusing on the unique needs of individual dioceses.
2. Enable the DDP to provide the bishops and NFP coordinators with a broad national picture of diocesan NFP program activity.

The following information is based on responses to the 2000 Diocesan NFP program *Profile* survey.*

OVERVIEW OF THE 2000 PROFILE

In November of 2000, **189 Profile** questionnaires were mailed to dioceses. **One hundred eighteen** or almost **two-thirds (62%)** of the dioceses completed and returned questionnaires. This represents the largest baseline data on NFP programs throughout the nation, since the *Profile* began in 1990. As in previous years, the data indicates that certain aspects remain unchanged concerning NFP programs with a slight improvement in a few areas.

- A. In almost every diocese, there is a person designated as the NFP coordinator. Often this responsibility is only one of many jobs performed by the person, e.g., marriage and family life director. A significant fact is that **82 percent** of NFP coordinators are trained in NFP methodology.
- B. **Forty-eight percent** of dioceses allocated less than a **\$5,000** for NFP efforts. **Sixty percent** of all NFP diocesan programs operate on less than **\$10,000** per year. **Twelve percent** of diocesan programs spend from \$10,000 to \$29,000 annually. Nearly **25 percent** of dioceses allocate from **\$30,000** to more than **\$70,000** for their NFP programs. Well-funded diocesan NFP programs usually rely on various forms of federal and state grants to supplant diocesan funding. There are some dioceses where NFP instruction is covered by insurance plans. In most dioceses, a typical arrangement is for an NFP program to share the funding, material, and staff support of an umbrella department, e.g., Marriage and Family Life Office.
- C. The majority of diocesan marriage preparation programs make at least some effort to provide rudimentary NFP information to engaged couples, e.g., booklets and fact-sheets. Through NFP introductory sessions, more than 120,485 individuals received information on NFP. The time given to NFP is not lengthy, in **68 percent** of Pre-Cana programs, it is

less than **one hour**. There has been slight improvement in the amount of time given to NFP in marriage preparation programs. A more thorough and substantive inclusion of NFP in educational programs about human sexuality and conjugal love remains a challenging goal, not only for marriage preparation, but on every level of instruction. Sometimes, NFP is barely mentioned in Pre-Cana programs, e.g., literature is simply given to couples without discussion. Only one diocese requires a complete course of instruction in NFP as part of their comprehensive marriage preparation program.

- D. Across the nation, more than 21,062 individuals received a course of instruction in NFP.
- E. The Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) and Ovulation Method(OM) are the most preferred methods of NFP. A variety of NFP national, regional and local provider groups are used by dioceses.
- F. The majority of diocesan NFP teachers, **52 percent**, are volunteers. A few dioceses, **27 percent**, provide stipends to volunteer teachers to cover personal costs, e.g., transportation, baby sitter, materials, etc.
- G. From the dioceses surveyed, there is more than **2,200+** NFP teachers across the nation. They represent a huge resource for the teaching of human sexuality within a faith context.

At the beginning of a new millennium, when viewed nationally, NFP programs vary from nonexistent to comprehensive. 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 *National Standards*. Increasingly, there is a trend in dioceses or provinces to sponsor their own teacher training programs. But, across the nation, as one diocese improves its NFP program, another diocese experiences a reduction in its NFP program size either through teacher loss, budget cuts, and/or diocesan restructuring. The hard fact remains that in many dioceses, NFP is viewed, if at all, as a marginal pastoral concern (see the reports on funding, personnel, and time devoted to NFP).

Finally, regardless of the diocese, the single most compelling pastoral question when examining diocesan NFP efforts is “*Can couples who wish to be faithful to Church teaching on responsible parenthood get the NFP help they need?*” The answer to this baseline question will determine how best to plan and support local diocesan NFP Ministry.

***Gratitude is extended to the following dioceses
which provided data for the 2000 Profile survey***

Albany; Alexandria; Anchorage; Arlington; Atlanta; Austin; Baker; Baton Rouge; Beaumont; Birmingham; Bismarck; Boise; Boston; Bridgeport; Brooklyn; Buffalo; Burlington; Camden; Chicago; Charlotte; Cincinnati; Cleveland; Columbus; Corpus Christi; Covington; Crookston; Davenport; Detroit; Dodge City; Duluth; El Paso; Erie; Evansville; Fall River; Fargo; Fort Wayne; Gaylord; Grand Rapids; Great Falls-Billings; Harrisburg; Hartford; Helena; Honolulu; Houma-Thibodaux; Indianapolis; Jackson;

Jefferson City; Juneau; Kalamazoo; Kansas City-St. Joseph; Knoxville; La Crosse; Lafayette, LA; Lafayette, IN.; Lake Charles; Lexington; Lincoln; Little Rock; Los Angeles; Louisville; Madison; Manchester; Marquette; Memphis; Metuchen; Miami; Milwaukee; Mobile; Newark; New Orleans; New York; Norwich; Oakland; Oklahoma City; Ogdensburg; Omaha; Orange; Owensboro; Palm Beach; Pensacola-Tallahassee; Peoria; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Pittsburgh; Portland, OR; Providence; Raleigh; Rapid City; Richmond; Rockford; Sacramento; St. Cloud; St. Louis; St. Paul and Minneapolis; St. Petersburg; Salt Lake City; San Antonio; Savannah; Santa Fe; Shreveport; Scranton; Seattle; Sioux City; Spokane; Springfield, IL; Springfield, MA; Springfield-Cape Girardeau; Superior; Syracuse; Toledo; Trenton; Tucson; Tulsa; Washington D.C.; Wheeling-Charleston; Wichita; Winona; and Yakima.

Program Resources

The following documents are useful in strengthening diocesan NFP programs.

Diocesan Plan for Natural Family Planning Program Development. Washington, D.C.: Diocesan Development Program for NFP, 1981. (Available from the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities; 202-541-3070.)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Standards for Diocesan NFP Ministry. Washington, D.C.: 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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I. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

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

- 65% Part of the office of Marriage and Family Life
- 07% A service of one of our Catholic hospital(s)
- 02% Part of Catholic Charities
- 09% Its own department
- 16% Other
- 01% No Response

2. Does the (arch)diocese have an NFP Advisory Committee?

- 38% Yes
- 62% No

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

- 41% Diocesan NFP Coordinator
- 32% Family Life Director
- 07% Respect Life Director
- 02% Director Catholic Charities
- 02% Its own department
- 11% Other
- 5% No Response

The person responsible for coordinating NFP ministry has held the position for an average of (8) years.

4. For this position, NFP work is: (*Check one.*)

- 45% One aspect of other responsibilities
- 08% Full-time, paid
- 01% Full-time, volunteer
- 30% Part-time, paid
- 14% Part-time, volunteer
- 02% No Response

5. Is the NFP coordinator trained in NFP methodology? (*Check one.*)

- 82% Yes
- 14% No
- 04% No Response

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

(*Frequency*)

- 45 Teacher
- 71 User
- 40 Promoter
- 28 No Response

Those who have been teaching have taught for an average of (17) years.

7. If you answered question (5), please indicate which school(s) of NFP trained the coordinator: (*Check all that apply.*)

(*Frequency*)

- 28 Billings Ovulation Method Association (BOMA)
- 40 Couple to Couple League (CCL)
- 23 Creighton Model Ovulation Method Programs (FertilityCare™ Center)
- 17 Diocesan NFP Teacher Training Program
- 12 Family of the Americas Foundation
- 06 Other
- 24 No Response

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

Total: 2,243 8 No Response

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

52% Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We give them a stipend to cover expenses.

27% Most of our NFP instructors are volunteers. We do not give them a stipend.

12% We pay our NFP instructors (part and/or full time).

08% Salaries/stipends for instructors are provided by other sources (e.g., Catholic Hospital, Knights of Columbus, etc.).

03% No Response

10. Which organization trains the (arch)diocesan teachers? (*Check all that apply.*)

(*Frequency*)

37 Billings Ovulation Method Association (BOMA)

72 Couple to Couple League (CCL)

49 Creighton Model Ovulation Method Programs (FertilityCare™ Center)

28 Diocesan Teacher Training program

10 Family of the Americas Foundation

22 Northwest Family Services

03 Other: Various locally sponsored settings

08 No Response

II. PROGRAM BUDGET

11. How much money was spent on (arch)diocesan NFP programming last year? (*An estimate should include salaries, stipends, postage, materials, etc.*)

05% \$0

14% \$1-999

28% \$1,000 - 4,999

10% \$5 - 9,999

12% \$10 - 29,999

06% \$30 - 49,999

08% \$50 - 69,999

10% \$70,000+
07% No Response

12. How much (arch)diocesan money was allocated for NFP programing last year?

10% \$0
14% \$1-999
29% \$1,000 - 4,999
11% \$5 - 9,999
12% \$10 - 29,999
07% \$30 - 49,999
05% \$50 - 69,999
05% \$70,000+
07% No Response

13. Is there a fee for an introductory session? (*Check one*).

Prices range from a low of **\$5.00** to a high of **\$55.00** depending on materials and length of an introductory session(s).

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

The average charged for a course in NFP is **\$70.00**. The charge varied from a low of **\$25.00** and to a high of **\$233.00**, depending on materials, length of course, and the number of follow-up services required.

15. Is a fee charged for follow-up? (*Check one*).

27% Yes 58% No 15% No Response

The average charged for a follow-up is \$20.00. The amount varied from \$0 to \$40.00

III. PROGRAM SERVICE

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

(*Frequency*)

79 OM
96 STM
12 No Response

17. 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 120,485 individuals received some information on NFP.

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

More than 21,062 individuals attended a class/instruction on NFP.

19. Does the (arch)diocese have guidelines for marriage preparation?

91% Yes 5% No 4% No Response

20. If the answer to question (19) was “Yes” is NFP included in the guidelines for marriage preparation?

76% Yes 16% No 8% No Response

21. Does the (arch)diocese require an introduction (overview) to NFP for the engaged? *(Check one.)*

51% Yes 44% No 5% No Response

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

02% Yes 93% No 5% No Response

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

20% 5 minutes - 15 minutes
25% 20 minutes - 30 minutes
23% 35 minutes - 45 minutes
23% 1 hour - 2 hours+
9% No Response