



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! With the MLB All Star Game in the rear-view mirror, the 2nd half of Baseball Season has begun and my “High Hopes” for the Phillies continue. So far this Season in both watching the games on TV and being at the Ballpark, I’ve noticed an advertisement behind home plate for “NFP”. Apparently, NFP are the initials of an insurance agency; but when I saw those letters I thought of something very different...Natural Family Planning! I wonder what came to your mind?

To a generation of Catholics, the very initials NFP may trigger all sorts of ideas: Perhaps teachings about the evils of contraception, sexual ethics, the rhythm method or Humane Vitae. But to a younger and growing generation all of that would be news to them; and the news of Natural Family Planning is really good news, refreshing and fruitful! News that communicates respect for husband and wife; respect for the body and soul; respect for marriage and family. There is truly a generational difference here.

Why? In part, it’s because many in the younger, growing generation have experienced such bad news. The news that Paul VI prophesied 56 years ago this week when he wrote of contraception’s consequences:

- 1) *“Marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards.”*
- 2) *“Men forgetting the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reducing her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires.”*
- 3) *“The danger of this power passing into the hands of those public authorities who care little for the precepts of the moral law... Who will prevent public authorities from favoring those contraceptive methods which they consider more effective? Should they regard this as necessary, they may even impose their use on everyone.”*

These realities – not to mention infertility -- now so familiar to young people are provoking an interest in realizing another way. And that way, enlightened by greater medical science, respect for the body and persons, is Natural Family Planning. In working with young people and preparing them for marriage, I’ve seen a real change in this regard and I do have “high hopes” for the future as I see them embracing NFP and saying “no” to contraception. And that’s a VERY GOOD thing! If you are interested in more information on this topic, visit the US Bishops Website; or call our parish office. We have several couples in our parish who are well-versed on NFP.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

MISSIONARY APPEAL WEEKEND JULY 27 – 28, 2024



**St. Patrick Welcomes
Father Mapara, OSB**

Next week is our Annual Missionary Appeal Weekend. Fr. Mapara, a Benedictine monk of St. Maurus Hanga Abbey in Tanzania will be here. He currently works in the diocese of Baker, Oregon and will speak with us about the need for safe drinking water in Tanzania. A collection will be taken for his religious community which serves the rural population of Tanzania.

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BLESSING OF THE COLUMBARIA Monday, July 29, 2024 Feast of Saints Martha, Mary, & Lazarus



Join us on this special day as we
dedicate, bless, and name our new Columbaria.
9:00 AM ~ St. Patrick Cemetery