



Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry
240 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13202 • Lisa Hall, Director • (315) 470-1418 • e-mail: lhall@syrdio.org

National NFP Awareness Week

National NFP Awareness Week is July 23- July 29, 2017. The theme for this year is **It's Time! Say "Yes" to God's Plan for Married Love.**

National Natural Family Planning Week highlights the July 25, 1968 anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. The encyclical includes Catholic teaching about God's design for human sexuality, married love and responsible parenthood.

For more information or to receive a free copy of *Humanae Vitae*, email Elizabeth Giordano: Egiordano@syrdio.org.

It's time!

Say "Yes" to God's plan
for married love.

Natural Family Planning



Diocese Hires Natural Family Planning/ Fertility Education Program Coordinator – Meet Elizabeth Giordano

Elizabeth Giordano with her husband Ben and their three children.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart, Ben, for almost 7 years and we have three young kids, two boys (ages 5 and 3) and one little girl (15 months). Our family lives in Endwell, and we attend Church of the Holy Family. I grew up Protestant, and converted to the Catholic faith in 2012, a couple months before the birth of our first son.

What drew you to want to practice NFP?

A few months after we got married, some very close friends of ours had us over for dinner. They very casually told us that they practiced NFP, and explained what it was. I was very interested, and they let us borrow a book about it. I knew very soon after starting to read the book that it was something I could get behind, not just because of the natural side of it but also because of the theological teaching behind it, and my husband felt the same way. Our friends' non-judgmental, positive approach to presenting it to us had a huge impact on me, and I hope that I can present it in a similar way to others.

What are your goals for strengthening the use of NFP in the Syracuse Diocese?

There are really three main goals. First, I hope that we can help to build a sense of community among current users of NFP in our diocese, and bring them together with this common bond. Practicing NFP can feel isolating at times for many people, because it is in many ways counter-cultural. But I think building that community will encourage people to stay the course and let them know that they are not alone, there is a beautiful

community of believers surrounding them and praying for them and their family. Secondly, I would like to find ways to build awareness and further promote NFP within the Catholic churches, and eventually to the greater communities around them. I think NFP can be a tool for evangelization – I know it played a huge part in my conversion by opening me up to the idea that there was real beauty and wisdom in the Catholic Church. And lastly, I would love to see an increase in the number of teachers/instructors in our diocese.

How do you see NFP as a tool that can strengthen families and marriages?

NFP is an amazing tool for communication within a marriage. It provides a forum for couples to talk about their hopes, dreams, fears, and worries in regards to their family, and to continually have those "big conversations" sometimes even on a monthly basis. Practicing being open to life is really like a spiritual discipline that requires a lot of faith and trust in God, that He will provide and He will make a way. And that attitude of trust in God can then carry over into every area of your life and your marriage. I truly believe that practicing NFP is a beautiful, tangible way to live out your faith in your day-to-day life, and although it comes with its challenges, it brings couples closer to each other and closer to God. It also is a beautiful witness to your children, that every human life is sacred and important to God, and that every baby is a blessing. When that belief is lived out, it can have a lasting effect on not just our families but also the world around us.

USCCB Call To Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty



The U.S. Bishops invite us to pray and sacrifice for the protection of life, marriage and religious liberty in our country. Suggestions include praying the rosary, visiting our Lord in Adoration, offering special intentions during Mass, fasting, abstaining from meat or some other small sacrifice.

Pastors/Parish Leaders

- Promote the Call To Prayer in your parish. Visit www.usccb.org, search “Bishops’ Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty” for more information and resources.
- Host a Monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour. This could be held on the last Sunday of each month or at another time determined to best fit the parish calendar.
- Offer Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.
- Post the “Call to Prayer” logo and web banners on your diocesan and parish web pages. Put them in the parish bulletin or in the ad section.
- **Fortnight for Freedom:** To highlight the importance of defending religious freedom, June 21 – July 4 dioceses around our country plan special events during the Fortnight For Freedom that takes place from June 21 - the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More - to July 4, Independence Day. For prayer resources and more: www.fortnightforfreedom.org

VISIT WWW.USCCB.ORG/FREEDOM

HELP

Save Our Religious Freedom

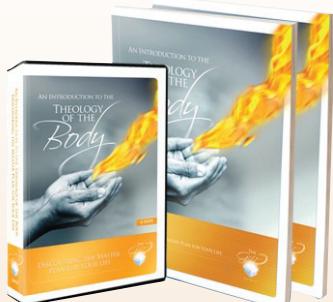
...in 60 seconds or less.

Text **FREEDOM** to
377377 to defend
your right to live
by your faith.



DISCOVER THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY!

Given to us by Pope John Paul II, this extraordinary Catholic teaching is renewing marriages, awakening vocations, healing deep personal wounds, and setting people free to live the life of greatness to which we are all called!



JOIN THIS
SUMMER
PROGRAM!

Introduction to the Theology of the Body

A DVD program
by Christopher West

Tuesdays, July 11-Aug. 29, 2017, 7:00- 8:30 pm
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Ryan Center
425 Beechwood Ave., Liverpool, NY

Cost: \$25/person

Register online: <https://introtob.eventbrite.com>

or by mail: Please make check payable to
Family/Respect Life Office and mail to Sharon Flanagan,
Syracuse Diocese Family/Respect Life Office,
240 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13202

For more information contact, Sharon Flanagan
(315) 470-1417 or email sflanagan@syrdio.org

Hope After Abortion



God wants to restore your peace

Join Us For A Day of Hope and Healing (based on Entering Canaan)

July 15, 2017
September 23, 2017
February 10, 2018
April 14, 2018



FAMILY LIFE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Chuck and Kathy Janik are the winners of our March 2017 Life Line contest and have received a "Six Dates for Catholic Couples" couple packet* and a \$25 Visa gift card.

Be the first couple to send us a photo with your names, wedding anniversary, name of parish and parish city and you will receive the "Six Dates for Catholic Couples" couple packet* and a \$25 Visa gift card.

Send your contact information by July 1, 2017 to: Mary Kortright, 240 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13202, or email: mkortright@syrdio.org. Your photo with caption (names, wedding anniversary and parish) will be included in our September Life Line newsletter and posted on our Facebook page.

*The "Six Dates for Catholic Couples" program includes six 10 minute videos and discussion starters, and is designed for use at home to encourage strong, loving marriages. For more information go to: www.happy-together.net.



Chuck and Kathy Janik were married on May 11, 1985 and are parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Cicero.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Syracuse Diocese Family/Respect Life Office will be hosting a "NFP Couples' Date Night" on Friday, August 18, 2017, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Christ the King Retreat Center, 500 Brookford Rd., Syracuse.

This will be the first in a series of events to provide NFP users, and those interested in learning more about Natural Family Planning, the opportunity to socialize with others and to experience support and fellowship. The event will include Mass and dinner. Registration is \$50 per couple. To register online visit: <https://nfpdatenight.eventbrite.com>. For more information or assistance with cost, email: Egiordano@syrdio.org.

THIRD OPTION:

Find the joy in your marriage and live a happier, healthier life together!



The Third Option is an ongoing group program to build better marriages. Marriage Enrichment meetings are in the following areas:

SYRACUSE AREA:

- June 4:** "Rebuilding Trust: It Can Be Done"
- June 18:** "The Two Great Secrets of Healthy Marriages!"
- July 16:** "Ending The Blame Game: It Feels So Good!"
- Aug. 13:** "Understanding Expectations: It Can Transform Your Marriage!"
- Sept. 10:** "Ending The Power Struggle!"
- Sept. 24:** "Dealing With Control Issues"

Meetings are 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

at Holy Cross Church, 4112 E. Genesee St., Dewitt, NY.
Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Pat
at (315) 472-6728 or email: pennis@syrdio.org.

UTICA AREA:

- July 9:** Building a Climate of Respect
- July 23:** Ending the Blame Game
- Aug. 6:** Expectations
- Aug. 20:** Redefining the Power Struggle
- Sept. 10:** Coping with Control Issues
- Sept. 24:** Listening Beyond the Words

**Meetings are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at The Good News Center
10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica, NY 13502.**
For inquiries, contact Melissa (315) 735-6210
or Melissa@thegoodnewscenter.org.

SYRACUSE DIOCESE SURVEY

Do You Practice Natural Family Planning?

Please take a moment to respond to an informal survey.

- 1) Are you familiar with Natural Family Planning (NFP)?
- 2) Are you interested in learning more about NFP?
- 3) How long have you used NFP?
- 4) Which NFP method do you use?
- 5) How did you hear about NFP?
- 6) Would you be interested in promoting NFP?
- 7) Would you be interested in teaching others to use NFP?
- 8) Are you interested in being invited to NFP educational and social events?

Please go to www.syracusenfpsurvey.com to complete this survey.

For informational purposes, please provide:
Your name, email, parish name, and city.

RESPONDING TO THIS SURVEY DOES NOT IMPLY COMMITMENT.
NO COMMITMENT IS NECESSARY.

Thanks so much for your response!

Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry
Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED SUPPORT MEETINGS

Ongoing support groups for separated and divorced meet regularly throughout the diocese. For information on group meeting dates and locations, go to www.syracusediocese.org and visit Separated/Divorced Ministry on the Family/Respect Life page.

DIOCESAN EVENTS:

DAY OF HOPE & HEALING FOR WOMEN: JULY 15, 2017: Do you have unresolved feelings about involvement with an abortion? Have you felt guilty, sad, ashamed, or not forgiven? Come to a Day of Hope & Healing for women. The location and contacts are confidential due to the personal nature of this experience. For more information call Project Rachel Ministry at (855) 364-0076 or email: hopeandhealing@syrdio.org. All calls and emails are confidential. God loves you and wants you to have peace.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: July 11-Aug. 29, 2017 (8 consecutive Tuesdays), Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 425 Beechwood Ave., Liverpool, 7:00-8:30 p.m. If you're wondering if there's more to life than just "getting by", then discover the extraordinary Catholic teaching known as the Theology of the Body. Given to us by Pope John Paul II, the Theology of the Body is renewing marriages, awakening vocations, healing deep personal wounds, and setting people free to live the life of greatness to which we are all called. Learn more through An Introduction to The Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan For Your Life, an 8-week DVD adult faith formation program beginning July 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 and includes a study guide and refreshments. To register visit: <https://introtob.eventbrite.com>. For more information or to register by mail, contact Sharon Flanagan, Syracuse Diocese Family/Respect Life Office, (315) 470-1417 or email: sflanagan@syrdio.org.

NFP COUPLES' DATE NIGHT: Christ the King Retreat House, 500 Brookford Rd., Syracuse, August 18, 2017, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This will be the first in a series of events to provide Natural Family Planning (NFP) users, and those interested in learning more about NFP, the opportunity to socialize with others and to experience support and fellowship. The event will include Mass and dinner. Registration is \$50 per couple.

To register visit: <https://nfpdatenight.eventbrite.com>

CELEBRATING SUMMER & LIFE BARBECUE: Christ the King Retreat House, 500 Brookford Rd., Syracuse, August 25, 2017, 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Syracuse Diocese Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry. In case of inclement weather, the BBQ will be held indoors. Cost is \$5/person, \$20 max/family, and under 5 yrs. old free. Dinner includes hamburgers, hot dogs, mac & cheese, salad, drinks and dessert. The pool will be open with a lifeguard on duty. Each Respect Life Parish Coordinator will receive a free copy of the USCCB 2017-18 Respect Life Program. Please register at <https://summerandlife.eventbrite.com> or call Mary Kortright at (315) 472-6754.

PREPARE/ENRICH MARRIAGE MENTOR TRAINING PROGRAMS: August 5 and October 7, 2017: Are you interested in being a mentor for engaged couples? The next training sessions will be held on August 5 and October 7. For more information, email kcolligan@syrdio.org or mputhawala@syrdio.org.

UPCOMING PRO-LIFE HAPPENINGS:

WESTERN REGION

JOSEPH'S HOUSE "BIRDIES FOR BABIES" DINNER: Skaneateles Country Club, 3344 W. Lake St., Skaneateles, June 12, 2017, 5:00 PM.

The golf tournament is sold out. Join us for dinner! The proceeds will benefit Joseph's House, a loving home for homeless pregnant women. Dinner is \$50 per person. Those attending are eligible to win great prizes! To register and pay online visit: <http://jhwf.org/birdies-for-babies-registration/>. For more information contact Carol (315) 701-4981 or carol@jhwf.org or Joe Convertino (315) 727-4201 or jconvertinojr@chinsurance.cc.

SYRACUSE RIGHT-TO-LIFE STATE FAIR EXHIBIT: August 23- September 4, 2017: The Syracuse Right-To-Life Association will have an exhibit at the Great New York State Fair in the Center of Progress building Aug. 23-Sept. 4, 2017. Visitors are invited to see their display of pro-life literature and fetal models. If you are interested in volunteering at the exhibit, please contact Sharon Flanagan at Syracuse Right to Life, (315) 546-BABY (2229). To receive a copy of the newsletter, contact Louis Ragonese (315) 652-8383.

EASTERN REGION

CAMP ESTHER: July 28-July 30, 2017, The Good News Center, 10475 Cosby Manor Rd., Utica: The New York State Right to Life will present their annual pro-life teen leadership weekend for young men and women interested in changing the world. This is an intensive training and lots of bonding with other like-minded students. The training will include presentations on life issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and stem cell research as well as fun games, oratory opportunities, and more! Camp Esther weekend includes tuition, rooms, meals and a t-shirt for only \$150. Scholarships are available. Space is limited and fills quickly. For more information, or to register, contact Alison Stevens, (518) 434-1293, or email: alisons@nysrighttolife.org.



Lisa Hall, Director (315) 470-1418, email: lhall@syrdio.org

Mary Kortright, (315) 472-6754, email: mkortright@syrdio.org

Sharon Flanagan, Chastity/Theology of the Body Educator, (315) 470-1417, email: sflanagan@syrdio.org

Deacon Dean Brainard, Separated & Divorced Ministry, (315) 472-6754, email: dbrainard@syrdio.org

Sue & Ron Kielar, Eastern Region Marriage Prep Coordinators, (315) 737-7529, email: kielars@syrdio.org

Kathleen Colligan, Southern Region Family Life Office, (607) 748-4743, email: kcolligan@syrdio.org

Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry

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www.syrdio.org • Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/familyrespectlifesyracuse/?fref=ts>

Mary McIver Puthawala, Southern Region Family Life Office, (607) 771-0313, email: mputhawala@syrdio.org

Patricia Ennis, Third Option Marriage Program, (315) 472-6754, email: pennis@syrdio.org

Debra Oliva, Project Rachel Program Coordinator, (315) 472-6754, email: Doliva@syrdio.org

Elizabeth Giordano, NFP/Fertility Education Program Coordinator, (315) 579-0069, email: Egiordano@syrdio.org

Bethanie Ryan, Social Media Programmer, (315) 751-8976, email: bryan@syrdio.org

CELEBRATING *Summer & Life*

Join us for a BBQ on the beautiful grounds
of Christ the King Retreat House
500 Brookford Road, Syracuse, NY



Friday, August 25th, 2017
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

(In case of inclement weather, the BBQ will be held indoors.)

\$5/person, \$20 max/family, Under 5 Free
Hamburgs • Hot dogs • Mac & Cheese
Salad • Drinks • Dessert

Please register at <https://summerandlife.eventbrite.com>
or call Mary Kortright at (315) 472-6754

Each Respect Life Parish Coordinator
will receive a copy of USCCB 2017-18
Respect Life Program



Sponsored by the
Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry
Syracuse Catholic Diocese



The pool will be open with a lifeguard on duty.



AWARDS
PRESENTED ON
OCTOBER 26TH,
2017

Bishop James Moynihan Pro Vita Award

Bishop Moynihan was a fearless leader in the pro-life movement. He was dedicated to building a Culture of Life, promoting Vocations, and strengthening Catholic Schools. The Pro Vita Award seeks to honor his legacy by granting a \$1000 scholarship to 2 high school seniors who graduate in 2018 and reside in the Syracuse Diocese. The scholarships will apply toward college tuition.



Bishop James M. Moynihan recites the rosary in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood in Syracuse on Oct. 12, 2007. Catholic Sun photo by Paul Finch

Funds will be awarded based on submissions answering the following:

**WHY are you PRO-LIFE
& HOW will YOU help build a culture of life ?**

Submissions may be video, essay, dance, song, music, pictures, art, (limited to 2 minutes or 500 words). Work must be submitted by email to Mkortright@syrdio.org by October 17th, 2017.

Awards will be presented at the Mass for Life with Bishop Cunningham at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, October 26th, 2017.

Contest is open to all Catholic students who reside in and attend private or public schools in the Syracuse Diocese.