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Office of The Diocesan Bishop



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Each year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) promotes Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, the national educational campaign to promote Natural Family Planning (NFP). This year, NFP Awareness week is celebrated from July 19 through July 25 under the theme: *Natural Family Planning: Designed by God! Guided by Love! Open to Life!* This campaign is a wonderful opportunity to share the good news about God's perfect design for marriage and responsible parenting.

Married love is fundamentally a call to fruitfulness. In response to this call, the Church proposes Natural Family Planning as a modern, scientific method available to couples for planning their families. NFP enables them to participate in God's creative action without breaking the inseparable link between the unitive and procreative meanings of the conjugal (marital) act. As NFP becomes a way of life, husbands and wives cooperate with each other and with God to responsibly plan their family and avoid the devastating spiritual and physical harm caused by artificial contraceptive methods.

During NFP Awareness Week, we highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* issued on July 25, 1968. This important document upholds perennial Church teachings about human sexuality, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood. I would like to commend all married couples who are living out this commitment to fruitful love in their married life.

In addition, I would like to encourage all married and engaged couples to consider NFP and make the commitment to live out your marriage vows in free, total, faithful and fruitful love. If you have not yet considered NFP or have questions, I invite you to investigate and discover the richness of NFP by visiting our website at www.diocesepb.org/naturalfamilyplanning or call our Marriage Ministry office at 561-775-9557 for further information and assistance.

Assuring you and all those you love of my continued remembrance in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and commending you to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Most Reverend Manuel de Jesús Rodríguez, J.C.D.
Bishop of Palm Beach