



THE **LANTERIAN**

SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

To Have. To Hold. To Honor
National Family Planning Week

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 25, 2021

CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. James Doran, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

Pastoral Associate:

Isabelle Maria

Music Director: Michael
Enwright

Music: Saul Garcia, Cesar
Garcia, Christina Roberts

Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for July:

We pray that, in social, economic
and political situations of conflict, we
may be courageous and passionate
architects of dialogue and friendship.



Cover Art:

Natural Family Planning Week
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM,
5:30 PM, (en español)

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM, 12PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 -11:50AM, 12:45-4:15PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:45-3:30PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Our Lady
Wednesday after Mass: St. Joseph
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;
Sat. 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00AM - 5:30PM;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:30PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:30PM*

(*Closed during Sun. and Sat. Vigil Masses)

CONTACT US

St. Francis Chapel
800 Boylston St., Boston MA 02199

617-437-7117
stfrancis@omvusa.org



SFChapel



stfrancischapel

stfrancischapel.org



Reflection

In the dictionary of God there is no such thing as INSUFFICIENCY. The readings of today remind us that God is never unmindful of our wellbeing. He is the only One who can, and has always, satisfied our needs. In the first reading, the hunger of the children of God was satisfied by the Prophet Elisha. A few barley loaves, twenty, were miraculously multiplied to feed 100 persons with some left over. This points to a similar faith-strengthening and hope-reassuring event of the feeding of the Israelites with manna under the leadership of Moses to confirm further that God cannot be outdone in generosity. It was prophesied: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kindred, and will put my words into the mouth of the prophet; the prophet shall tell them all that I command." (Deut. 18:18). This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

In today's gospel reading, the expectations of the crowd were met by Jesus, for they had been looking forward to the coming of a Messiah who would perform great miracles like Moses. With the multiplication of the loaves, they were pretty certain that the promise had been fulfilled. However, there was confusion regarding what type of messiah he was. They mistook Him for an earthly and political Messiah.

Rene Latourelle shed further light on this saying: "The event led to a crisis because of the too earthly expectation of the crowd. In any case, the event had a twofold meaning: it was by his nature as such to reveal the true messianic identity of Jesus, and it was a sign heralding the sacramental economy which Jesus was inaugurating by his presence." (Rene Latourelle: The Miracles of Jesus and the Theology of Miracles Paulist Press 1988. P.78)

In the two instances of multiplication, in the first reading and in the gospel, selflessness is an important factor. On the one hand, this is seen in the life of the man from Baal-shalishah who brought twenty loaves to Elisha, and on the other, the small boy who offers the five loaves and two fish along with St Andrew presenting them. These characters teach us that whenever there is the willingness to give generously (of our treasure, time and talent) multiplication takes place. Consequently, no one will be in need.

One of the fundamental questions we may ask ourselves is: Why a miracle? Rene answers profoundly: "By means of miracles God makes use of the sensible world in which human beings have enclosed themselves, in order that where the purely spiritual cannot enter in, sensible reality itself may overcome obstacles. His intention is that the eyes of the soul may be healed through fleshly eyes that have been struck by the brilliant light of miracles." (The appeal to the authority of St. Augustine on His teaching on Miracles, P267)

In light of Natural Family Planning, which is the focus of our attention this week, it is important to do a reality check on our stand with respect to Mother Church's teaching on Family Planning. Perhaps a quick reading and meditation on the prophetic document *Humanae Vitae* would be a good thing to do. Furthermore, we must not forget that contraceptives of any kind are DESTRUCTIVE.

Finally, as the saying goes, generosity begets generosity. For instance, through modern agriculture, the Lord continues to multiply everything for our sustenance. Therefore, the unborn should not be deprived of life. They are also entitled to enjoy the continuous multiplication worked by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Life at the Chapel

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR TRAINING

From October 2021 to October 2023, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary at St. Joseph Retreat House, will direct an intensive formation program to train men and women interested in becoming spiritual directors and guides of the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius.

The program entails three two-week sessions of in-person instruction and practical training. In between each session, students will engage in the ministry of direction, accompanied by an approved supervisor. There are prerequisites to the program.

For more information or inquiries see the St. Joseph House Ministry page at omvusa.org, or 617-698-6785, retreats@omvusa.org



Volunteers

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).

Please let us know if you are interested in assisting the Chapel in its mission with your time and talent.

Please respond to sfc.pru@gmail.com or let us know personally.

God bless you!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 25

8:00 AM Harley Auguste—birthday
9:15 AM +Fran Kane
10:30 AM +Joseph Hayes
11:45 AM Talia Novellino—birthday
1:15 PM +Hilda Osuna
4:00 PM +George Foley
5:30 PM +Rev. Robert De Leon CSC

Monday, July 26

8:00 AM Matthew Nash & intentions
12:05 PM +Linda Kastor Bouton
4:45 PM +Terry Kingston

Tuesday, July 27

8:00 AM +Richard Mahoney
12:05 PM Dante Mugauro
4:45 PM Thanksgiving to God—health

Wednesday, July 28

8:00 AM The Falbo Family
12:05 PM George Revoir
4:45 PM +Mahoney Family

Thursday, July 29

8:00 AM Mary Glazer—healing
12:05 PM +Mrs. Pat Seler
4:45 PM In Honor of St. Martha (for a husband)

Friday, July 30

8:00 AM Anna Ciccomancini—healing
12:05 PM +Robert Martini
4:45 PM Natalie Hutner—birthday

Saturday, July 31

9:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. Jason Allain
12:00 PM The Holy Souls
4:00 PM +Ann & +Tim Murphy Callahan
5:30 PM +Joaquin Emilio y +Ana Maria Garcia

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

Natural Family Planning, It's worth it. Join the Revolution!

By Jill Cherrey—Archdiocese of Newark

In marriage preparation programs, couples frequently ask: "What is the difference between contraception and Natural Family Planning (NFP)?" Although I am happy to explain, I often realize that words are inadequate. I try to encourage them to ask a better question: "How can a couple have 'authentic sexual intimacy' and responsibly plan their family?" The difference between the two questions is deep and wide. The answer has to do with joining a revolution— God's revolution!

God's love is revolutionary. It is freely given. It is permanent, total, faithful, and fruitful. And, God shares His love with us as gift. When man and woman marry, they make a vow at the altar to love each other as God loves. In their consent, the "I" becomes "we!" And, there is more. God's gift of sexual relations to husband and wife gives them a particular way to "seal" or "perfect" their vows in a physical reality where the "we" can become "us" in a child.

With NFP, spouses say, "I love you freely" because the time of sexual abstinence demonstrates that they can say "No" and do no harm to God's gift of fertility. This makes their times of "Yes," more meaningful. To put it another way, if we cannot say "no" to our sexual urges then we are not truly free and our "yes" really means nothing. When a couple jointly respects God's gift of fertility rather than seeking to manipulate it, they offer the total gift of their persons to each other. A faithful gift is one that is always in the best interest of the person, and NFP allows a couple to say, "You are amazing just the way you are" (remember, when using NFP, the couple does not seek to alter their fertility through chemicals, devices, or procedures). In addition, the discipline of periodic sexual abstinence helps couples to resist temptations that offend sexual fidelity and the virtue of chastity. NFP allows the couple to give God the final word on whether their sexual union will result in pregnancy. In turning over physical fruitfulness to God, the couple practices spiritual fruitfulness as they open their hearts to God who is love.

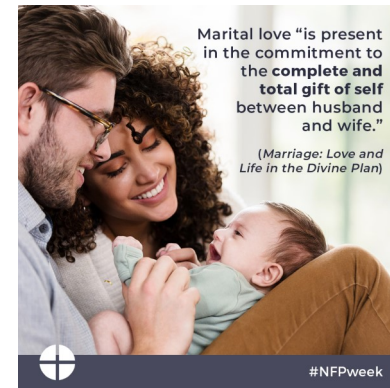
A revolution is not an easy endeavor. It can be exciting, but it inevitably will require personal sacrifice and even suffering. NFP is no different. Accepting God's invitation to live His plan for married love is both humbling and wondrous. It involves many blessings. And, yet, it will also have its difficulties. For example, when postponing a pregnancy, some couples may experience prolonged periods of sexual abstinence due to unclear fertility signs—and they will feel the loss of their physical intimacy. When facing the challenge of postpartum and breastfeeding or during perimenopause, other couples

may wonder if their efforts are worth the trouble. And, sadly, some couples may be tempted to give up when receiving disapproval from friends or family. At times such as these, it will be important for NFP couples to know that they are not alone. They can seek help from their NFP teachers and local diocesan leaders. The diocesan NFP community has access to resources, including spiritual directors and appropriate medical professionals, who can help couples who are in need of assistance.

Most importantly, when facing challenges, NFP couples should be encouraged to turn to God in prayer—as individuals and as a couple. In my own life, I have both worn down rosary beads and the path to the Adoration chapel during spiritual battles in my life- and God never failed to give me consolation and direction!

In my mind's eye stands an image of a heart with the caption, "Sacrifice is the Metric of Love." We know this truth in the deepest part of our being. Unfortunately, today we live in a culture that has tried to redesign love and in particular, sex. In doing so, it has eliminated the language of love which is the language of self-sacrifice. NFP supports the language of love. It stands against any notion that love is about self-satisfaction to the exclusion of self-donation. NFP allows couples to honor God by respecting His design. It both respects man and woman as created by God, and values God's gift of fertility. NFP therefore values the child as gift.

What is God's design for men and women but that which is love and life, babies and bonding, unitive and procreative, together! With NFP, a couple can trust the gift as it was made, and when they do so, they can truly renew their vows and invite love, God's love into their marriage. This is a revolution worth joining!



Natural Family Planning Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This article is printed with the permission of the author. You have her permission to reproduce in whole or in part, in print and/or electronically, with the following statement: Jill Cherrey, "NFP, It's worth it! Join the Revolution!" Used with permission.