

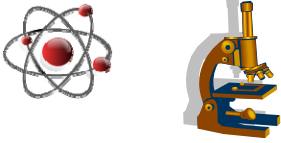
THE LOVING CHOICE

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10 - Issue 3

October 2009

NaProTech



NaProTech, or Natural Procreative Technology was designed to be an ethical way to treat infertility. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website describes it as a "system of medical and surgical interventions that cooperates with the women's menstrual cycle to treat infertility and other women's health problems".

The technique uses the Creighton model System (CrM) to evaluate a woman's menstrual cycle, hormonal evaluation of the cycle, a series of ultrasounds to observe how the ovaries are functioning and sometimes a surgical evaluation to get at the root cause of the couple's infertility. The cause of the infertility can then be treated in order for the couple to conceive naturally.

Recently, a study came out examining the efficacy of NaProTech in the *Journal of the American Board of*

Family Medicine.

Primary care physicians trained in CrM reported their findings on how efficiently NaProTech was at treating infertility. The authors found that in couples with infertility issues using NaProTech, the gross live birth rates were 45% at twelve months and 56% at twenty-four months, similar to those found for *in vitro* fertilization methods (IVF). Although further studies must be done, these findings begin to support NaProTech as a good alternative to IVF.

Information from CMR Vol. 20 Nos. 1&2 Winter/Spring 2009 www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/cmr.shtml

St. Gianna



On October 18th at 11AM there will be a mass to give a blessing to those couples who have lost a child or to those who desire a child. For those couples desiring a child and struggling with infertility, there is a beautiful article at catholicinfertility.org written about St. Gianna by Archbishop Raymond Burke.

St. Gianna, considered the patron saint of mothers, physicians and the unborn, was born Gianna Berretta to a devout catholic family in Italy in 1922. With a sister and brother who dedicated their lives to religious vocations, she struggled to find her own vocation. Eventually, she realized that God was calling her to a life of marriage with Pietro Molla, a brilliant young engineer who was also a devout catholic.

St. Gianna gave birth to four children. However, during her fourth pregnancy, a fibroma was found on her uterus. The doctors urged her to abort the child in order to save her life. Strongly opposed to abortion, she decided to continue with the pregnancy, understanding full well the danger this may pose to her life. Reflecting on her choice, she wrote: "This time it will be a difficult delivery, and they may have to save one or the other — I want them to save my baby" (Love Letter to My Husband, p. 14). Gianna died a week after delivering her healthy baby girl, Giovanna (Gianna) Emmanuela.

Gianna followed in her mother's footsteps and became a doctor.

At the 1997 World Day of the Family she offered this prayer, "Dear Mama, thank you for having given me life two times: when you conceived me and when you permitted me to be born... My life seems to be the natural continuation of your life, of your joy of living, of your enthusiasm; I discover my life's full meaning in dedicating myself to whoever lives in suffering.

Dear Mama, intercede always for all mothers and all families who turn to you and entrust themselves to you."

Father Burke suggested that couples struggling with infertility pray over St. Gianna relics (pieces of her wedding dress). Several of these couples subsequently reported conceiving and delivering healthy children. Father Burke concluded with, "In any trial of the family, especially in the desire to conceive and give birth to children, I urge you to pray through the intercession of St. Gianna. Having lived so fully the life of wife and mother and having known so many trials in remaining faithful to her vocation, she will not fail to hear your prayers."

Please send topics, articles, questions, and suggestions to via e-mail at jndorsten@gmail.com