# EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

15700 S Military Trail, Delray Beach, FL 33484 • www.emmanuelcatholic.church • (561) 496-2480

# We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

Romans 6:9

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# JUNE 28, 2020

h Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @ 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: Icksan

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm

#### DAILY MASSES

Monday - Thursday 7:30am & 8:30am Friday: 7:30am, 8:30am & 6:00pm Saturday: 8:30am

#### SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES

4:00pm 5:30pm

#### SUNDAY MASSES

7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 6:00pm

#### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every first Friday from 9:00am—5:55pm Followed by the 6:00pm Mass

#### <u>TAIZÉ PRAYER</u>

Every Friday at 6:30pm—7:30pm (after 6:00pm Mass) except for First Fridays.

#### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Anointing of the sick every Thursday following the 8:30am Mass, or call the parish office

#### WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

#### **BAPTISMS**

3rd Sunday of the month 1:00pm. Schedule one month in Advance. Contact Deacon Tony

#### **HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

5:00pm Vigil Mass 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

#### **GIFT SHOP HOURS (SUNDAY)**

8:30-9:00am; 10:00-10:30am 11:30am-12:00pm; 1:00-1:30pm

#### **DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP**

Every Thursday at 2:30pm with Benediction

#### **ROSARY GROUP**

Monday—Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: Following the 8:30am Mass, 3:15-3:45pm & 5:00-5:20pm, or by appointment

### Welcome to Emmanuel Catholic Church Parish Family God is with us

# **Parish Mission Statement**

Emmanuel Catholic Church which means, God is with us, is a faithful community of believers dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Roman Catholic Church through word, sacrament, and service. As one parish family of God, we live by faith, truth, and love as we value the sanctity of life in all its stages and make the Holy Eucharist the center of our lives. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the consultation with our parish ministries, we desire to be witnesses of God's presence as we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God's Family.

# **Parish Organizational Chart**

Most Reverend Gerald M Barbarito Bishop of Palm Beach

> Rev. Gaudioso Zamora Pastor

# **Clergy**

Parish Vicar Rev: Theodore Ihedoro Deacon: Deacon Anthony Cuseo In Resident: Rev. Joseph Papes Weekday & Weekend Associates: Msgr. Leonard Badia & Rev. Timothy Canaan Weekend Associate: Rev. David Carr

# <u>Staff</u>

Bookkeeper: Simi Sahu Secretary: Stella Sadolfo Receptionist: Maria Steger Pastoral Outreach: Melissa Tom Property Manager: Edward Shannon

# **Parish Pastoral Council**

# **Parish Finance Council**

# **Parish Ministries**

RCIA & Sacramental Preparation: Dcn. Tony Cuseo Religious Education: Jean Krokus Children of Divine Mercy: Melissa & Annette Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Fr. Theo Lectors: Fr. TheoHospitality/ Ushers: Bob Bonney & Chuck Dolce Altar Servers: Music: Linda Coz, Bill Stafford, Clanaven Baldonado & Mens Choir Altar Flowers: Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community Altar & Clergy Vestments: Mary Ann Dibiase & Fran Restivo Pastoral Outreach: Melissa Tom Homebound: Joan Saccio Hospital Ministry: Fr. Theo Youth Group: Gift Shop: Gail Sullivan & Fran Restivo

# **Parish Organizations**

Ladies Guild: President Judy Ward Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight Bob Albertson

#### Thirteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time June 28th, 2020 2 Kgs 4: 8-11, 14-16a / Ps 89: 2-3, 16-19 / Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11 / Mt 10: 37-42

On this thirteenth Sunday, the church exhorts us to welcome Christ in others. This is especially, through the messengers of God among us. She equally encourages us to be sensitive to the needs of one another in order to make a positive difference in their lives.

It is important to ask ourselves these important questions: do we still value the presence of others? Are we sensitive to their needs? Is our presence a source of blessing to the people we meet? Does it really make any difference, or is it an added burden to their life? What good do I bring to the life of others?

In the first reading the prophet Elisha is shown great hospitality by the wealthy women from Shunem who had no child and whose husband was old. By the end of the reading, Elisha has promised her son. The second reading tells us that if we have died with Christ we will also share his glory. And in the Gospel, Jesus tells us that the good we do especially for those who need will surely be rewarded.

Nothing surpasses the generosity of God. He is never miserly. His abundance and his goodness flows to all of his creation, most especially to us his children, no matter how weak and sinful we are. His sun shines and his rain on both the good and the bad. At the sane time, it is also true that those who give to him generously, who commit their whole lives to serving him, receive a recompense that is beyond anything they can imagine, in this life and in next. "give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into you lap." (Lk. 6:38) For, "God loves a generous giver." (2 Cor. 9:7)

Pray: Lord, let me give of myself completely, to you, to the people I love and serve. Let me not count the cost, for loving you and your people is reward in itself.

Act: Go and check your closets and drawers and go over your old clothes and belongings. Take what you no longer use and no longer need and donate it to the poor. And say a prayer of thanks to the lord for giving you the gift of generosity.



### 28 SUNDAY

7:30am No Intentions
9:00am Fathers Day Novena
10:30am Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00pm †Diane Rose Brusca by Lou Shantzen & †Tracy Spilka by Anna & Richie Szpilka
6:00pm Jean, Niela & Walter Dajczak by Jennifer Demeusy

#### <u>29 MONDAY</u>

7:30am Fathers Day Novena8:30am †Richard Asbury by Jerry Cramsie & †Florence Dattero by Therese

#### <u>30 TUESDAY</u>

7:30am †Frank Lindner by Family
8:30am †John Didolce by Tom & Cathy Tripi & †Fr. Tim Sockol by John & Christine Wilkens

#### <u>1 WEDNESDAY</u>

7:30am †Repose of the Soul of Olga Lucia Sarmiento by Monica Paez8:30am †Pat Pizzamenti by Blessed Mother Council 1338 Knights of Columbus

#### <u>2 THURSDAY</u>

7:30am †Repose of the Soul of Olga Lucia Sarmiento by Monica Paez8:30am †Marie Crapanzano by Sister

#### <u>3 FRIDAY</u>

7:30am †Repose of the Soul of Olga Lucia Sarmiento by Monica Paez & \*For all the souls in Purgatory by Jennifer Demeusy
8:30am †Donna Petricone by Husband

**6:00pm** For Priest's Intentions

#### <u>4 SATURDAY</u>

8:30am †Oscar & Laura Martin by Marie Guzman & Family & \*For the intentions of Jerome Plummer by Rice-Motta Family4:00pm Intentions of the Book of the Dead

**5:30pm** †Diane Rose Brusca by Suzanne Schechterman & †Timothy Bubniak by Bonczyk Family

#### <u>5 SUNDAY</u>

7:30am †Rose DeNoto by Blessed Mother Council 1338 Knights of Columbus
9:00am †Stephen Marry by Diane Marry & †Jan, Niela & Walter Dajczak by Jennifer Demeusy
10:30am Parishioners & Benefactors
12:00pm †Steven Skolinsky by Natalie Skolinsky & †Diane Rose Brusca by Arlene Scher
6:00pm †Rowle S Brazzier by Gail Gavin & †John Didolce by John & Cathy Alvimo

# **Unscheduled Mass Intentions**

Cesar Callabrese by Christine M Wilkens Cesar Callabrese by Christine M Wilkens †Joe Gualtieri by Wife, Stella †Joe Gualtieri by Wife, Stella

# Prayer List

Maltese, Bonnie Worble, Linda Knowles Dina Quelch Dave Kelly Robin Isaac Kirsten Barratia Katherine Cappadona Sal Defusco Lucianna Defusco Carol Cella Judy Call Marguerite Dawson Rosemary Donato Joseph Ippolito Jeffrey Chobanian Marie Rizzuto Joseph Stanck Nancy Barker Susan Manuele Michael Manuele

	WEEKLY UPDATES			
Our Weekly Off	ertory	2020 Diocesan Services Appeal		
Weekend Collection Offertory Collection: Second Collection: TOTAL: Fathers Day:	June 21st, 2020 10,125 1,166 11,291 1,333	Goal = \$166,000 Amount Made = \$108,611 Remaining = \$57,389		

# Flowers & Lights For The Altar

**ALTAR FLOWERS** For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parishioners

**<u>VIGIL LIGHTS</u>** For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parishioners

# SHRINE FLOWERS

For the Intentions of Emmanuel Parishioners



Parish Events This Week	Weekly Readings & Saints of the day
29 Monday6:00amLauds & Adoration	<b><u>29 Monday</u></b> Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
<u><b>30 Tuesday</b></u> 6:00am Lauds & Adoration	<b><u>30 Tuesday</u></b> The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-8; Mt 8:23-27
1 Wednesday6:00amLauds & Adoration	<ul> <li><u>1 Wednesday</u> St. Junípero Serra; Canada Day Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Ps 50:7-13, 16bc-17; Mt 8:28-34</li> <li><u>2 Thursday</u></li> </ul>
2 Thursday 6:00am Lauds & Adoration	Am 7:10-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 9:1-8 <b><u>3 Friday</u></b> St. Thomas; First Friday Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 20:24-29
3 Friday 6:00am Lauds & Adoration	<b>4 Saturday</b> Independence Day; First Saturday; Blessed Virgin Mary Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 9:14-17 or, for Independence
<u><b>4 Saturday</b></u> 9:00am Confession	Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Country," nos. 882- 886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891



#### Diocese of Palm Beach Phased Reopening of Churches and Safety Protocols:

-Wear facemasks during the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in your parish (with the exception of reception of Holy Communion).

- Social distancing will be observed, with spacing of 6 feet and use of every other pew (except for families and couples).

- Hand sanitizers and safety wipes should be used.

- There will be no reception of the Precious Blood or sign of peace, greeting of peace or holding of hands during the Our Father.





Diocese of Palm Beach Phased Reopening of Churches

Diocese of Palm Beach Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. This is meant to ensure the well-being and safety of all, not only the elderly and those who are at risk for illness, but anyone of any age who is making a prudent decision about their own well-being as well as that of others. Faithful are invited to continue to enjoy the weekly Televised Catholic Mass or attend their parish during the hours they are open.

# **Statement of Equality**

We have undertaken the opening of our churches in the Diocese of Palm Beach on the foundation of prayer, prudence, and patience to ensure the safety of all and to eliminate the pandemic of the coronavirus. Tragically, we also are in the midst of other destructive viruses which also requires prayer, prudence, and patience for their elimination. They are the virus of racism which continues to infect our nation and the virus of violence which has erupted it in response to it. We must do all we can to eliminate the devastating destruction which these viruses cause to our great nation.

One of the blessings of our country is the right to express our opinion in a legitimate manner and the right to protest injustice and inequality in a legal manner. However, the employment of violence in such expression is of the same nature as the injustice and inequality of racism that is rightly being protested. When we encounter racism and violence, we are in the face of the most infectious forces of evil.

As Pope Francis recently stated, "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every life. ... At the same time, we have to recognize that 'the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost'."

We pray in a very special way for George Floyd, his family and for all those afflicted by racism and violence. We join with and pray for all those seeking peace and healing within our nation and for those who offer their lives for the protection of others.

# **New Website**

We have a new website for our parish!

Come and visit us to see all the new features at... https://www.emmanuelcatholic.church/

Reminder	RCIA
As we start re-opening our vigil and Sunday mass- es, please follow the following protocols from our bishop which will be carefully observed for the com- mon good of all. 1 - Appropriate social distancing will be observed. Ex- cept for families and couples. The member of the min- istry of Hospitality and the Knights of Columbus are available in all masses to help accommodate this pro- tocol. 2 - It is highly recommended that facemasks be utilized while in church except for the reception of Holy com- munion. 3 - Holy water fonts will remain empty. 4 - There will be no alter servers for the present time. 5 - Hymnals, missalettes and other liturgical aids will not be available. 6 - There will be no offertory procession for the presentation of the gifts. Collection boxes are available in our sanctuary, in the middle and in the back of our church to put your offerings before or after the mass. 7 - The line for the reception of Holy Communion will also follow appropriate distancing. The center aisle is marked with blue tapes. We will have three stations for Holy communion. At the front, middle and the back. For the safety of others as well the recip-	I am overjoyed to announce that the 2020 RCIA Sacraments of Initiation celebration is finally scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th, 7pm at Emmanuel Church. To help ensure the well being and safety of all attendees, the following Coronavirus precautionary measures and protocols will be in place during service: This will be a PRIVATE service (not open or advertised to the public). RCIA Candidates and Catechumen are limited to ONE GUEST (their sponsor) Social distancing will be required with approximately 6 feet separation between persons. Attendees are asked to wear a face mask and to keep it on during mass, removing it only to receive Holy Communion. Please review your information on the attachment that lists RCIA Candidates and Catechumens who are scheduled to receive sacraments during this celebration. I need each of you to review it for accuracy and provide missing details ASAP (sponsor name, patron saint, etc.)
ient, receiving the eucharist in the hand be employed	Confession
at this time. Please understand this is for the common good. The priest, deacon or extraordinary minister will wear face masks for the distribution of Holy Com- munion. No gloves are to be worn by the minsters or recipient. 8 - The church and other venues for mass will be ap-	Temporarily we have cancelled the Saturday evening confessions to maintain social distancing. Our confes- sion for now is every Saturday at 9:00am-10:00am or by appointment. Please call the parish office.
propriately sanitized, hand sanitizer are available at the doors inside the church.	Msgr. Badia's 60th Anniversary
<ul><li>9 - No public gatherings before or after mass.</li><li>10 - Livestreaming mass in our church will continue. Every Sunday at 9:00 am for those who</li></ul>	Msgr. Badia's 60th Anniversary, the actual date is May 28th, Because of the virus we had to postpone the celebration until Sunday, October 25th at 12 noon.
cannot go to the church for any reason. 11 - Please pick up a church bulletin for more details.	You are invited to the Mass and a light luncheon fol- lowing the Mass. All of you are invited because you are my family.

-Msrg. Len Badia

Hello to all of you at Emmanuel Catholic Church, my name is Joseph Steger and I am a seminarian studying just up the road at St. Vincent de Paul seminary. I feel so blessed to be able to be at Emmanuel this summer and I look forward to getting to know many of you during my time here. It is in this spirit of eagerness of getting to know many of you, that I wish to share a little bit about myself so you can all get to know me in return.

I was born and raised in Plymouth Wisconsin, a small town in the east central part of the state, by my parents Gregory and Maryellen. I have three siblings Michael, Jameson and Maria (who currently works for this parish as the receptionist). My father is the inheritor of a family business in heating and air conditioning and my mother was a stay at home mom, homeschooling us children all the way through high school. Growing up in a small town was a blessing in so many ways. From a young age I knew so many of the people in our local



community, people who had known my parents, grandparents and great grandparents. This sense of being grounded in a community, through my family going back generations as well as knowing the people around me, gave me sense of security. It was the kind of security which I never thought I wanted to leave. That is until I was about 9 years old.

When I was 9, I learned about a woman by the name of Mother Teresa. I learned about how she cared for the poor and gave her whole life away to serve the poor, the broken and the forgotten of the world. As a 9-year-old something within me stirred and I knew that I wanted to be like her. I knew that I wanted to know God like she did, to see his face in the poorest of the poor. This was the dream I had for quite a while, until I was about 14. At this point in my life, the desire to get married and to have a family of my own began to come up and all the thoughts of wanting to live like Mother Teresa were set aside. However, after I graduated high school and was working full time, with plans of owning my own farm, the Lord called me back to the memory of my childhood and my desire to live like Mother Teresa. In bringing back all these memories and desires the Lord called began to call me out of that security which I had known ever since I was young and into the unknown.

It was in this desire to be like Mother Teresa that the Lord called me into the seminary. I was a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for 4 years and during that time the desire to be a priest who served the poor and lived as a missionary continued to grow. It was in my final year of seminary when I began to understood that the Lord was calling me to something other than diocesan priesthood. With my spiritual director I discerned to leave the seminary for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and do a year of formation and missionary work with Jesus Youth. During that year I discerned to become a missionary priest for Jesus Youth. In the fall of 2019, I entered St. Vincent de Paul Seminary for Jesus Youth. This last May I finished my first of 5 years at St. Vincent de Paul. With God's grace and the prayers of many people I hope to be ordained a priest in 4 years for Jesus Youth to serve the Lord and his Church.

God bless you all, Joseph Steger

# **Southern Deanery Meeting**

Our Parish Family hosted the Southern Deanery Meeting last Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 on the solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. In our Diocese of Palm Beach, we have four deaneries namely, northern, cathedral, central and southern. The southern deanery is composed of eleven parishes and one mission: Namely St. Marks, St. Thomas More in Boynton Beach, Emmanuel Church, St. Vincent Ferrer, & Our Lady Queen of Peace, &Our Lady of Perpetual Help Missionin Delray Beach, St. Lucy in Highland Beach, Ascension, St. Joan of Arc, St. Jude, our Lady of Lourdes and St. John the Evangelist in Boca Raton. Reverend Monsignor Michael D McGraw, VF Pastor of St. Joan of Arc, is our Dean







## **Prayer for Protection Against Storms**

God our Father, Creator of the Universe and Lord over all creation, we humbly stand before you as your children in thanksgiving for your loving care and protection. We ask that you keep us safe from all hurricanes which may threaten us in the coming seasons. Protect us from all fear and anxiety of storms and give us an ardent trust and hope in Your love and mercy. You alone have the power to command the sea, the wind and the rain. You alone bring peace, calm, and safety. Father, we thank you in advance, for you are our only Refuge. We ask this through Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and Patroness of our Diocese, pray for us.

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#### Oración para pedir protección contra las tormentas

Dios Padre nuestro, Creador del Universo y Señor de toda la creación, humildemente nos presentamos a ti, como hijos tuyos, en acción de gracias por tu amoroso cuidado y protección. Te pedimos que nos guardes de los huracanes que nos puedan amenazar en la próxima temporada. Protégenos de todo temor y de la ansiedad que nos causan las tormentas y danos confianza ardiente en Tu amor y misericordia. Solo Tú tienes el poder de mandar al mar, al viento y a la lluvia. Solo Tú traes paz, calma y seguridad. Padre, te agradecemos de antemano, pues tu eres nuestro único refugio. Te lo pedimos por Cristo, tu Hijo, que vive y reina contigo y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

María, Reina de los Apóstoles y Patrona de nuestra Diócesis, ruega por nosotros.

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Bondye Papa nou, ou menm ki kreye syèl la ak tè'a, ou menm ki Bondye kreyasyon'an, nou kanpe devan'w tou piti, nou menm ki oun an , pou nou di'w mèsi pou tout renmen ak pwoteksyon ou ban nou. Nou mande ou pou ou pwoteje oun an sezon siklon k'ap vini'an. Ban nou pwoteksyon ou kont tout sa ki vle fè nou pè, kont tout angwas e ban nou plis lafwa ak lesperans nan renmen ak mizerikod ou'a. Se ou menm sèl ki gen pouvwa pou komande lanmè'a, van ak lapli. Se ou menm sèl ki kapab bay lapè ak pwoteksyon. Papa, nou di'w mèsi davans, paske se ou menm ki refij nou. Nou lapriyè ou konsa nan non Jezi-Kri pitit ou, li menm ki vivan e ki ap komande ansanm avèk ou, ansanm ak Lespri Sen'an, yon sèl Bondye, kounye'a e pou toutan. Amen. Mari, rèn Apot yo, ou menm ki patron Dyosèz nou'an, lapriyè pou nou.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your support of our prayer effort to ask God to keep us safe from hurricanes in this upcoming season and to pray for all adversely affected by them.

# Congratulations

The clergy and staff would like to congratulate Fr. Gaudioso Zamora on his 30th anniversary to the priesthood and one year anniversary of being our Pastor on June 30, 2020.

Fr. Gaudioso Zamora was ordained to the priesthood on June 30, 1990, on the memorial of the first martyrs in Rome by Most Rev. Felix S. Zafra in the diocese of Tagbilaran, Philippines.

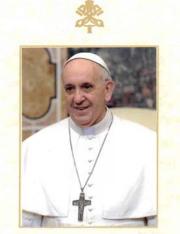


#### Previous Assignments

Parish Vicar: St. Joseph Cathedral, Philippines
Pastor: Holy Cross Parish, Philippines
Pastor: Our Lady of Gaudalupe Parish, Philippines
Administrator: Our Lady of Von Voyage Quasi Parish, Philippines
Pastor & School Director: St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish Philippines
Pastor & School Director: Holy Infant Jesus Parish, Philippines
Member of the Board of Consultors: Diocese of Tagbilaran, Philippines

Moved to the United states and eventually became a US citizen and was assigned to Emmanuel Catholic Church 2004. On January 2018 he was appointed as parish administrator and on June 30 2019 was installed as pastor of Emmanuel catholic church by Most Reverend Gerald M Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach.

Due to the Corona Virus, he said that nothing special for the celebration. He will say a Mass of thanksgiving on Tuesday June 30th, at 7:30am.



His Holiness **Pope Francis** as a pledge of divine favor bestows the Apostolic Blessing upon

#### Reb. Father Gaudioso Zamora

in gratitude for his dedication as a Pastor at Emmanuel Catholic Church, Delray Beach, Florida

Washington, D.C April 2020 Archbishop Christophe Pierre Apostolic Auncio

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# Diocese of Palm Beach

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(561) 775-9595 Fax (561) 775-7035

July 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Natural Family Planning Awareness week is the annual national educational campaign sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to promote Natural Family Planning (NFP). This year, NFP Awareness week be celebrated from July 19 through July 25 under the theme: *Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love!* The campaign offers us a wonderful opportunity to share the good news about God's perfect design for marriage and responsible parenting.

In sacramental marriage we are called to live with Christ-like love; to freely give of ourselves as a gift to our beloved. Married love is fundamentally a call to fruitfulness and, in response to this call, the Church proposes Natural Family Planning. Today's NFP provides a modern, scientific method available to couples for planning their families by enabling 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 in responsibly planning their family and avoid the devastating spiritual and physical harm caused by artificial contraceptive methods.

During Natural Family Planning Awareness week, we also celebrate the  $52^{nd}$  anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Issued in 1968 by Pope Paul VI, this encyclical prophetically articulates the grave consequences of the use of artificial and illicit means of birth control, including a general lowering of morality, increased infidelity, and devaluing of women (*HV*, no. 17). Unfortunately, today's headlines confirm the devastating accuracy of his predictions and demonstrate the destructive consequences for our families. In contrast, couples who practice NFP enjoy greater marital stability and suffer divorce at only a fraction of the rate of divorce among first time marriages overall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those married couples who live out their marriage commitment to free, total, faithful and fruitful love. I encourage all married couples and those preparing for marriage to reflect on their current or future marriages and how they can authentically and responsibly fulfill their commitment to fruitful love. If you have not yet considered NFP or have questions, I invite you to investigate and discover the richness of NFP. Please visit our website at <u>www.diocesepb.org/naturalfamilyplanning</u> for resources and additional information or call 561-775-9539.

With every prayerful wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,