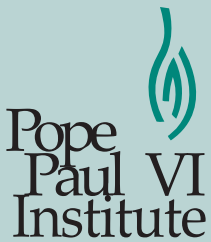


# Culture of Life Newsletter

## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

This is an exciting time for the Pope Paul VI Institute, as we can see the fruits of our labor build a visible culture of life in the United States and abroad. As you know, we have long had a strong interest in Mexico both for its Catholic tradition, and as a gateway into Latin America where so many Catholic physicians and families reside. This work has included the translation of our Creighton Model materials into Spanish, our education programs, which we held in Mexico City in 2013 and 2016, not to mention the many Mexican practitioners and medical consultants we have trained in NaProTechnology. We recently entered into an affiliation with Panamericana University School of Medicine to help them develop the infrastructure necessary to provide education and training in NaProTechnology. Over the next five years, we will help them develop the infrastructure, and longer-term, we will continue to work with them as an ongoing resource. Working with a highly-respected medical school such as Panamericana University is a tremendous opportunity for the Institute and provides a blueprint for extending our work to other regions of the world while maximizing the reach of the Institute. Thank you for your support in this work and for helping us build the culture of life in women's reproductive health care world-wide.

*Thomas W. Hilgers, MD*



For the Study of Human  
Reproduction

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### CONTACT US

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## A Family at the Institute

*By Maureen Karpf*

**I THANK GOD EVERY DAY** for the Pope Paul VI Institute. Edith Lorraine Karpf was born into this world on April 1, 2015. She has been with me, in my arms, every day for the past year, even while I do my job as Development Associate at The Pope Paul VI Institute.

The reason we have been able to spend this precious time together is because of Dr. Hilgers' office baby policy. Since the very beginning of the Pope Paul VI Institute, Dr. Hilgers has allowed employees of the Institute to bring their babies to work with them for the first 12 months, if the job allows.

While Dr. Hilgers requires a high quality of work performance from his employees, he understands the needs of the family and the importance of nurturing the bond between mother and child. This is a testament to Dr. Hilgers' dedication to building strong families!

The Institute is a very special place because of the important work being done to make the pro-life reproductive health care found in the Creighton Model System and NaProTechnology widely accessible. There is no way I could adequately convey how truly incredible it is to be an Institute employee! The Institute is definitely not just a place of employment — it's a family.

**A GIFT THAT HONORS LIFE:** Have you or a loved one been impacted by the Pope Paul VI Institute? Consider establishing a memorial or tribute gift as a testimonial while making a difference to those we serve.

Contact Maureen Karpf at (402) 505-8945 or [maureen.karpf@popepaulvi.com](mailto:maureen.karpf@popepaulvi.com) to learn more!



*Maureen and Edith Karpf*



## Dr. Angelica Maria Sarmiento Brings Healing and Hope to Paraguayan Women and Couples

**THE POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE** provides medical professionals throughout the world with training and support to help extend the Institute's medical breakthroughs to women and families across six continents. The Institute's primary source of education and training is its Education Program, which consists of two full weeks of training held annually in the fall and spring.

In the October of 2015, one of the many medical professionals to begin the Institute's Education Program was Dr. Angelica Maria Sarmiento, an obstetrician from the South American country of Paraguay. Dr. Angelica first heard about the Pope Paul VI Institute after being contacted by a local reporter who was writing a news story about NaProTechnology.

"I declined the request for the interview because I hadn't even heard about NaProTechnology at the time," says Dr. Angelica. Having a strong background in both gynecology and bioethics, however, Dr. Angelica's interest in NaProTechnology was piqued. It was not until after two other chance encounters and some additional research that Dr. Angelica made the decision to pursue training at the Pope Paul VI Institute's Education Program, regardless of the time, travel, or cost.

"When are you trying to follow God's will, He will pave the way," Dr. Angelica assured herself and enrolled in the



*Dr. Angelica Maria Sarmiento*

Institute's medical consultant program. But the "road" did include its bumps.

"Here I was sitting in my first class in Omaha, and I came to the realization that I was in the wrong track. If I wanted to practice NaProTechnology, I would need to go through the Practitioner track."

After some prayer and contemplation, Dr. Angelica made the decision to enroll in the Education Program Practitioner track as well.

"I felt that God was asking me to take another leap of faith," she said.

In April, Dr. Angelica completed Educational Phase II in Omaha in order to provide services to women and couples in her hometown of Asunción, Paraguay,

where she is currently operating a growing NaProTechnology practice.

Not unlike so many Education Program students, Dr. Angelica sought reproductive health methods that are ethical and address the root cause of patients' reproductive health problems. Through NaProTechnology, she is able to serve her patients' medical needs while "living out her faith in a very real way."

"Dr. Hilgers' research is so new," she says of the Institute's founder. "Nobody has said the things Dr. Hilgers has, yet his research is also very clear and logical. If something is true in the spiritual realm, it must also be true in the physical and ethical realm as well."

## *Congratulations, Dr. Hilgers!*



On April 12, 2016, Co-Developers Sue Hilgers, Diane Daly, and Ann Prebil were able to thank Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers for their work together, commemorating the first Introductory Session 40 years ago on April 1, 1976! They surprised him with an award and slide show during Education Phase II in Omaha, with 90 students from 15 countries, 23 states, and 6 continents in attendance. Congratulations, Dr. Hilgers!





## NaProTechnology Building a Culture of Life through “Good Medicine”

**THE MISSION AT THE POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION** is to build a culture of life in women’s reproductive healthcare. While this mission is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, its focus extends well beyond Omaha, and well beyond even the United States. In fact, the Institute’s methods and research are being practiced in communities throughout the world. This is especially true in Poland, where the Pope Paul VI Institute held Education Programs in 2012 and 2013.

For Father Piotr Kieniewicz, a priest at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lichen in Konin, Poland, NaProTechnology and the Creighton Model FertilityCare System are providing hope and healing to a growing number of Polish families.

“Poland is a unique country in Europe,” says Father Piotr. “While abortion and contraception are certainly being practiced here, there is a growing feeling that we need to protect life.

Father Piotr, who was ordained in 1993, has a unique perspective in the area of human reproduction and sexual ethics as he holds a Ph.D. in Bioethics and has also received training in NaProTechnology. With this background, he was asked to manage a center providing Creighton Model FertilityCare System and NaProTechnology services on the campus of the Basilica. The center has seen tremendous growth since it opened, and it is currently staffed by four part-time medical consultants, each of whom has a full slate of patients.



Fr. Piotr Kieniewicz

“Dr. Hilgers says good ethics brings you to good medicine, and this has become my motto,” says Father Piotr. “NaProTechnology is good medicine.”

While Father Piotr is optimistic that adoption of NaProTechnology and the Creighton Model will continue to spread throughout Poland, he does see some challenges. “Poland still does not have proper surgical equipment for NaProTechnology, and the state-owned hospitals ultimately decide what is needed and what is not,” he says. “But if it is God’s will, He will provide.”

Even more than Poland, however, Father Piotr wants to see NaProTechnology used throughout all of Europe. “We have a lot of work to do,” he says, “but we get a lot of help from Dr. Hilgers and the Pope Paul VI Institute. We are committed to helping build a culture of life here and to provide good medicine.”

## Building a Culture of Life in Women's Healthcare Worldwide



**Above:** Faculty and Students enjoying lunch outdoors at the Casa Lago Conference Center during the Institute’s March EP I.

### Mexico

In March 2016, the Institute, in affiliation with Panamericana University School of Medicine, conducted an educational program for students from Mexico and Latin America.



**Above (from left to right):** Tom Prebil, Pascale Gouges, Ann Prebil, Katherine Smith, Fr. Piat, Sebastien and Genevieve Giraud.

### Mauritius

In Feb. 2016, co-developer Ann Prebil gave a presentation in Mauritius, an island nation in the Indian Ocean about 1,200 miles off the south-east coast of the African continent. Fifty people were in attendance, including Bishop Maurice Piat (shown above). She also conducted a practitioner intern on-site visit.



*Make your gift go further this month!*  
*Visit [popepaulvi.com/omahagives](http://popepaulvi.com/omahagives) before **May 25!***

## 24-Hour Online Give-a-thon to benefit Pope Paul VI Institute!

Your gift goes further through **May 25th!**  
The Pope Paul VI Institute is participating in Omaha Gives, a 24-hour online giving marathon that runs from midnight-to-midnight on **May 25!** Last year, our generous donors helped us raise **\$21,615!** This year, there will again be prizes and bonus dollars for every donation, so a gift of **just \$10** can go even further!



- **Participation prizes:** Organizations with the most unique givers will win one of *45 prizes worth \$90,000* throughout the day!
- **Hourly prizes:** \$1,000 will be added every hour to one randomly-selected gift!
- **Bonus dollars:** \$350,000 will be divided among all participating organizations based on their total raised. The more you give, *the more they match!*

You can sign up to give anytime in May up until **Wednesday, May 25!**  
Please take a few minutes to log on to this address:

[WWW.POPEPAULVI.COM/OMAHAGIVES](http://WWW.POPEPAULVI.COM/OMAHAGIVES)

Questions? Contact Maureen at (402) 505-8945  
or [maureen.karpf@popepaulvi.com](mailto:maureen.karpf@popepaulvi.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Education Programs

These programs teach the details of FertilityCare management to Practitioners and NaProTECHNOLOGY to Medical Consultants, producing highly-educated professionals who empower women and couples seeking these services in their communities.

- **Class 39, Omaha, NE USA:**  
EP I Oct. 1–8, 2016,  
EP II April 1–8, 2017
- **Mexico City Education Phase II**  
September 5–10, 2016

Learn more online  
[popepaulvi.com/events](http://popepaulvi.com/events)