

## Creighton Model FertilityCare System: Celebrating the Feminine Genius

2020 was a year punctuated by a trinity of anniversaries, all celebrating in various ways the dignity and vocation of woman. July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 marked 52 years since St. Paul VI promulgated the encyclical, *Humanae vitae*, the letter highlighting the premier role of women in family planning; April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 feted 40 years since Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers and his colleagues officially launched the Creighton Model of natural family planning which eventually became known as the CrM FCS, a system, as I will argue, that celebrates the genius of woman, and August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 commemorated 32 years since St. John Paul II publicized the apostolic letter: *Mulieris Dignitatem (MD)*, the *Dignity of Woman*, whose entire content was given over to what it means to be a feminine member of the human race. So, three 2020 anniversaries producing a magnificent kaleidoscope of the dignity of woman.

Here, **I'd like to** spotlight six ways women who access CrM FCS and field-test its family planning protocols are actively exercising and celebrating their genius, their vocation and their dignity as a woman.

First, the CrM system of family planning creatively activates this feminine genius when the woman uses the system

*As a stewardess:* The CrM can be used by women in a variety of reproductive situations—avoiding pregnancy, achieving pregnancy, while breastfeeding, and infertility—as it *ingeniously* networks procreative health with general health. In short, CrM FCS enables the woman to practice her *genius of being a stewardess over her body's reproductive system*, so that she's better able **to fulfill God's plan for her: to make** a sincere gift of herself to the Person of God, to her husband and to her children.

Second, the CrM system of family planning creatively activates this feminine genius when the woman uses the system

*As a mother:* The bonds of love between a mother and her newborn baby, poignantly evident in the tender way a mother cradles and looks at her baby, appear, to me, to be even stronger when the woman and her husband have achieved a pregnancy by means of a natural system of family planning. And that makes sense, my dear friends, for you see the CrM FCS provides the couple, especially the woman, ample opportunities to intelligently **and freely prepare for their child's conception, gestation and coming-out party.** Cycle after cycle husband and wife evaluate the circumstances of their marriage **and seek God's guidance to**

rightly decide, when circumstances dictate, to use their fertile days to attempt to conceive a new human being. And then, with the added genius of spiritual maternity, the woman cements her bond with her child by spending a lifetime of education mothering, that is, generating the spiritual and moral life of her child.

Third, the CrM system of family planning creatively activates this feminine genius when the woman uses the system

*As a liberated lover:* Over my 24 years with the Institute, women who use the FCS have taught me, again and again, the CrM works its own graces. Ever so gently, the **woman's** daily use of the Creighton System—tracking the fertile and infertile phases of her cycle—helps that woman disentangle herself from selfish attitudes so as to be able to embrace, ever more readily, her **vocation to be “for others.”** In sum, this Creighton System of family planning *unleashes the woman's genius of becoming “one flesh” with her husband and becoming a gift to her children, friends and co-workers.*

Fourth, the CrM system of family planning creatively activates the feminine genius when the woman uses the system

*As a prophet:* Couple-users of the system ingeniously prophesy to other couples about its usability, reliability and morality—testifying how they have experienced the use of CrM as something good for them and their marriage: a method that (a) confirms their personal worth, and (b) really works! These female-users of the CrM confidently encourage others to experience its “*genius-friendly*” benefits.

Fifth, the CrM system of family planning creatively activates this feminine genius when the woman uses the system

*As a moral compass:* The woman who invests substantive time and energy in finding and using a system of family planning that is moral—that is, in accord with her own good—is the woman who speaks volumes through her choice. She witnesses, by example, that as human beings we all need to be vigilant about choosing only those things that are truly good for us, including and especially that of a family—planning system that brings us closer to God. In this way, **the woman’s decision to use the CrM** gives her *an ingenious way of being a moral compass* capable of helping others find, through their reproductive decisions, the way to a truly good family life.

Sixth, the CrM system of family planning creatively activates this feminine genius when the woman uses the system

*As a life companion: It's been* reported in sociological literature that women who use a natural system of family planning, like the CrM, are less apt to divorce or, stated positively, are more able to practice *their genius of being a life companion* to their husband. The more this is the case, the more surely the prospect that, as CrM users, the husband and wife will be breaking bread together until death do they part.

For all these reason, CrMFCS truly activates and celebrates *the feminine genius*.