

2002

Annual Report



The Couple to Couple League



Executive Director's Report

“...married couples frequently feel the desire to communicate their experience to others. Thus a new and most noteworthy form of the apostolate of like towards like comes to be included in the vast field of the vocation of the laity: it is married couples themselves who become apostles and guides to other married couples.”

— Pope Paul VI, from *Humanae Vitae*

*In response, the Couple to Couple League International was established in 1971 by Catholic laity as an apostolate to help bring the truth and wisdom of the Christian teaching affirmed by *Humanae Vitae* to bear on the contemporary problem of family planning.*

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2002 was very successful for CCL. General contributions were down in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, but the difference was made up by some exceptionally generous donations from a few benefactors, to whom we are especially grateful. We were therefore able to continue CCL's work without interruption.

In October, 2001, Mark and Christina Hayden moved their family back home to Butte, Montana. Dave Norton, Chairman of the CCL Board of Directors, organized the staff to carry on the daily work of the apostolate until I could take up the reins as the new Executive Director in January, 2002. Thanks to the exceptional competence of our staff, CCL kept moving forward without any lost productivity during that period.

Through your prayers and support, CCL was able to make some significant accomplishments during the last fiscal year.

Over the course of the year we:

Met in Rome with officials of the Sacred Congregation for the Laity, the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to strengthen our relationship with the Church in Rome and to work towards official recognition of CCL as an international lay association assisting in the work of the Holy See to strengthen families;

Arranged a meeting of CCL leaders and Teaching Couples with the new Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, Bishop Karl Josef Romer, to explain the work of CCL and to receive his guidance for performing our work more effectively;

Assisted the Holy See with its efforts to influence policy decisions at the United Nations through CCL's membership in the U.N. as a Non-Governmental Organization With Special Consultative Status;

Expanded the international apostolate into Korea and the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, bringing the total number of countries served by CCL up to 26, with Candidate Teaching Couples in 8 additional countries;

Continued our efforts to develop good working relationships with more dioceses and with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops through the Diocesan Development Plan for NFP (DDP);

Conducted 26 Teacher Training Seminars throughout the United States and certified 115 new Teaching Couples, nationally and internationally, for a total of 863 active TCs;

Certified 66 new CCL Promoters, for a total of 574 Promoters worldwide;

Conducted 1,290 class series, an increase of 184 over the previous fiscal year;

Taught NFP to 7,203 couples or individuals by class series and *Home Study Course*;

Published the new basic Spanish manual, *Planificación Natural de la Familia*;

Conducted two Clergy Seminars for 34 priests and 4 seminarians;

Conducted a Physicians Seminar for 34 physicians and healthcare professionals;

Engaged in online discussions to improve the spirit of collaboration and cooperation among the different method providers of NFP in the U.S. and abroad;

Continued to publish articles and letters to the editor promoting NFP in the Catholic and secular press;

Improved support for Evangelical Protestants interested in NFP by linking to Evangelical NFP websites and promoting the new book, *Open Embrace: A Protestant Couple Rethinks Contraception* (praised by the Pontifical Council for the Family);

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVID A. NORTON
CHAIRMAN

JOHN S. BURNHAM, M.D.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

SHEILA M. KIPPLEY
SECRETARY

PAUL A. BUSAM, M.D.
EMERITUS

ROBERT R. DESMOND, M.D.

WAYNE L. HEPLER

JOHN F. KIPPLEY

LINDA F. KRACHT

REV. JAMES SULLIVAN, O.P.

The nine-member Board of Directors meets in June and November of each year. Board meetings for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2002 were held at CCL Headquarters in Cincinnati, OH on November 18 & 19 and June 2 & 3, 2001. The meetings began at 2:00 p.m. on each Sunday and concluded the following Monday afternoon.

Board members serve a two-year term with an election for five members at the June meeting in even-numbered years and an election for four members in odd-numbered years.

Officers of the Board are elected for a two-year term at the June meeting in even-numbered years.

We also conducted the most successful CCL National Convention in history at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. We had about 1,300 participants, the largest participation ever. We were graced with the participation of Archbishop Eusebius Beltran of Oklahoma City and Bishop Karl Josef Romer, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family in Rome. Bishop Romer was particularly delighted to see almost 700 children at the Convention, showing that CCL is promoting healthy marriages and families, not just a method of NFP.

Looking towards the future, we are committed to implementing the Vision statement which Board Chairman Dave Norton and I outlined at the National Convention:

Educating: Improve our programs and other efforts to educate couples about NFP and family life. For example, we need to revise and update our teaching notes and slides to take into consideration the fact that engaged couples now make up over half our students (55% last year) and many of these are taking NFP only to fulfill a marriage requirement. We need to test and implement the new Basic Program in Spanish. We need to explore ways to use computers and the Internet to teach NFP.

Selling NFP: Promote NFP more effectively at the local, national and international levels. For example, we need to improve the look and content of *Family Foundations* and seek to promote it more widely (already begun in the January-February 2003 issue — and at no increased cost). We need to develop unified promotional statements about NFP that will be used by all NFP, pro-life and pro-family apostolates and organizations. We need to publicize more widely the advantages of NFP over artificial contraception. We need to promote CCL on Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Television Network and other respected Christian media sources. We need to persuade leading Christian media figures to promote NFP.

Growing: Develop steady growth in CCL to more effectively meet the present and future need for NFP education in the Church and society. For example, we need to hire new key personnel including new Regional Field Directors, a new Director of International Development and support staff for our Publications Department. We need to certify more Teaching Couples and Promoters in areas of the U.S. and other countries where CCL is not yet present — especially in South America and Brazil, where the Pontifical Councils for the Laity and the Family asked us to provide our support.

Connecting in the Church: Develop good working relationships with parishes, dioceses, the National Bishops Conferences, the Holy See and with other family and NFP apostolates. For example, we need to recruit more priests to attend our national Clergy Seminars and promote local diocesan Clergy Seminars. We need to develop a good working relationship with the Family Life Office in every diocese. We need to continue our annual visit to Rome, demonstrating our commitment to working with the Holy See as an international apostolate.

Clarifying the Roles of CCL: Develop a clear conception of the various roles in CCL, from Chapters to Regions to CCL Headquarters and of the future organization as CCL grows and develops. For example, we need to finalize the revisions to our Leadership Manual (for Teaching Couples and Promoters). We need to standardize some of our policies, practices and procedures that may vary in time and place. We need to plan for the future organization of CCL as the apostolate grows and develops nationally and internationally.

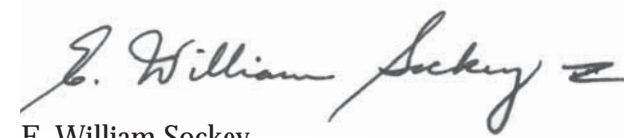
Linking and Communicating with Constituents: Improve communications at all levels within CCL so everyone knows what's happening and everyone has an opportunity to participate in the development of the apostolate. For example, we need to constantly improve the CCL website, to make it more interactive and beneficial for our members. We also need to bring our International Field Directors to CCL Headquarters periodically for consultations.

Praying: Develop the spiritual life of the CCL apostolate. For example, we need to enlist the help of as many convents and monasteries as possible to offer ongoing prayers for the welfare of CCL. We should also promote regular prayer for CCL among our members, and we should promote the "prayer watch" concept of several members praying together on a regular basis for CCL or for some particular project such as the success of the National Convention.

Many of these ideas for implementing the Vision have already been started. Others depend on our securing additional personnel and financial support.

The prayers and generous support of our many members and benefactors has made possible all that CCL has been able to accomplish over the past 31 years. Special thanks are due to our volunteer Teaching Couples and Promoters, our Board of Directors, our dedicated staff at CCL Headquarters, and our International Field Directors in foreign countries. And, most of all, we express our profound gratitude to John and Sheila Kippley for their tireless dedication to the Church and to the family which made the CCL apostolate a reality.

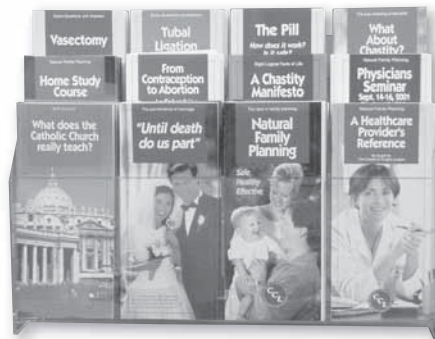
We trust that we can count on your support to help CCL have even greater success in the future in building stronger, healthier and happier marriages and families through Natural Family Planning taught by married couples to other married or engaged couples in the full context of the teaching of the Catholic Church on marriage and family life.



E. William Sockey
Executive Director



www.ccli.org



Promotion Brochures in Display Rack

Services We Provide

Excellent, professional instruction in the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning through an extensive network of certified Teaching Couples and the *CCL Home Study Course*. All instruction is based on the CCL manual, *The Art of Natural Family Planning*, which has also been translated into six foreign languages.

Personal chart interpretation and counseling by CCL Teaching Couples, Headquarters' professional counselors, and the Medical Advisory Board.

A comprehensive website at www.ccli.org, which provides answers and information to anyone in the world wanting to know more about NFP and CCL. The site features basic NFP information in both English and Spanish, a search engine to locate a local CCL Teaching Couple, up-to-date information on CCL's educational seminars, the latest issue of *Family Foundations* as well as past articles on key subjects, and an online store featuring CCL's complete line of products.

Publication of the bi-monthly magazine, *Family Foundations*, to offer support and encouragement to all NFP couples. Each issue features NFP-related updates, medical news related to women, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding, and feature articles and columns on topics that relate to marriage and the family.

Publication of 46 informational/educational brochures promoting NFP and related issues, and a 10-minute video — *NFP: Safe, Healthy, Effective* — which presents an overview of the Sympto-Thermal Method.

Publication of a wide range of books for understanding the complete NFP picture. These include *Sex & the Marriage Covenant*, *Marriage Is for Keeps* (Wedding and Student editions), *Breastfeeding & Natural Child Spacing*, and *Fertility, Cycles & Nutrition*.

An excellent selection of family-related books, videos, and audiocassettes offered through the CCL Catalog and online store.

A standardized NFP Teacher Training Program for all qualifying couples which is provided at no cost to the candidates, and a national Promoter Program in which CCL volunteers organize and promote local activities to raise the awareness of the public about NFP and CCL's activities.

Assistance to parents in providing effective education in human sexuality to their children through the *New Corinthians Curriculum*, a virtues-based education program for grades K-8, and the *Vital Issues I and II* kits for use by parents of high school students. *Vital Issues I* provides resources that deal with dating and courtship, while *Vital Issues II* focuses on life issues and vocations.

Education to clergy and healthcare providers through bi-annual seminars in Cincinnati. Clergy receive an overview of modern NFP and the positive effect it can have on marriages, practical ideas and support for bringing the NFP message to their parishioners, and strategies for requiring NFP instruction for their engaged couples. Healthcare providers learn the effectiveness and reliability of modern NFP, alternative approaches to cycle irregularities, and reasons to switch to an NFP-only practice. This seminar also offers CME credits to physicians.

Outreach to the growing number of Spanish-speaking couples through a complete line of NFP

materials and services, including translations of our training materials, most brochures, the Spanish newsletter (*Fundamentos para la Familia*), a Spanish catalog, and staff available for Spanish telephone counseling and order-taking.

Outreach to bishops and diocesan personnel to support the promotion of NFP.

CCL can provide dioceses with no-cost teacher training and assistance in promoting NFP, educating clergy, and working toward mandating NFP instruction as a normal part of marriage preparation requirements.



Fiscal Year	2000	2001	2002
Number of Teaching Couples certified in fiscal year	77	117	115
Total number of active certified Teaching Couples	711	794	863
Number of class series taught in fiscal year	1,053	1,166	1,290
Total number of CCL class series taught since 1971	20,021	21,187	22,477
Number of family units taught in fiscal year	6,417	7,169	7,203
Total number of family units taught since 1971	136,463	143,632	150,835

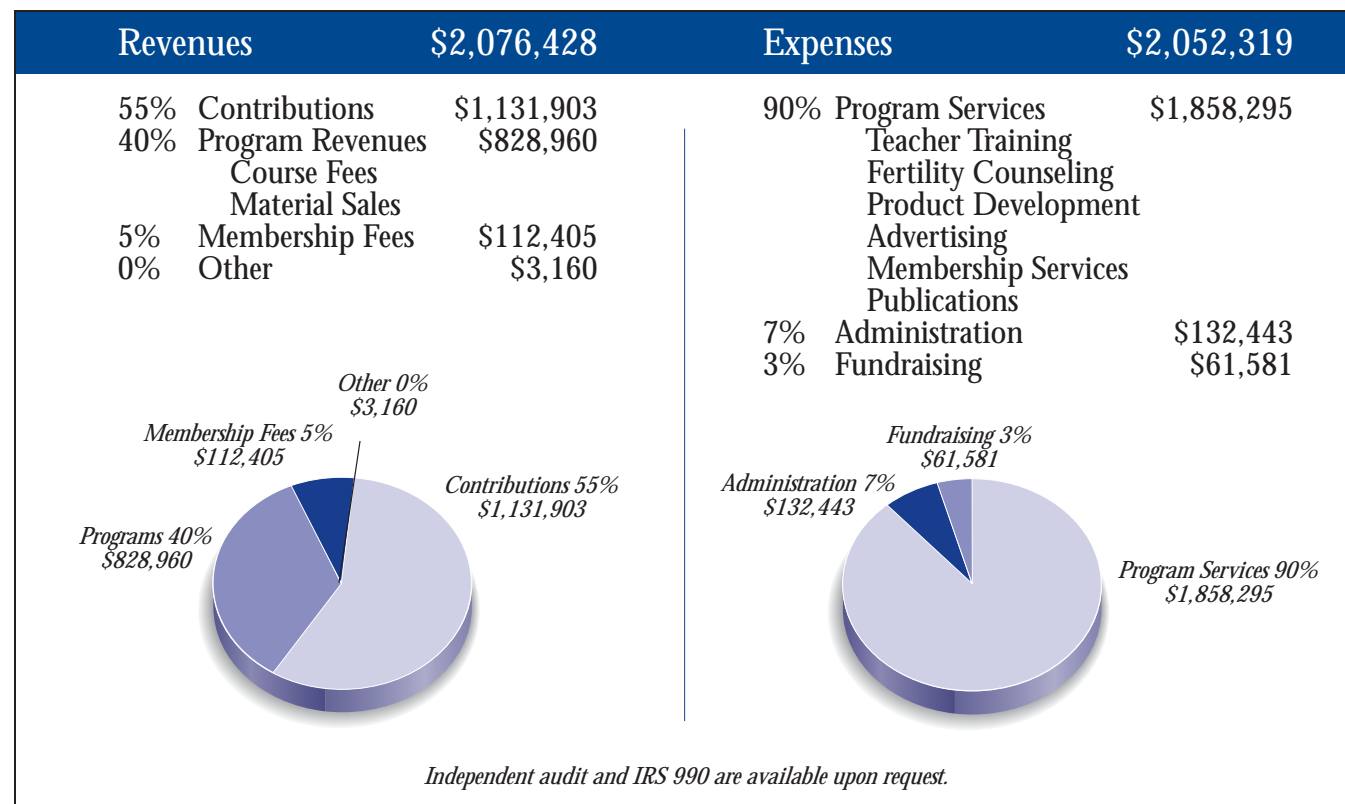
Total number of *The Art of Natural Family Planning* sold since 1971 ... 344,000

The Financial Picture

The Couple to Couple League International is a not-for-profit, interfaith organization whose primary mission is to promote marital chastity through the teaching of NFP.

CCL operates a division called the **Foundation for the Family** which produces programs and materials that promote teen chastity and strengthen the family.

CCL was founded in 1971 by John and Sheila Kippley and provides services both nationally and internationally. CCL has 27,401 active members, 863 active certified volunteer Teaching Couples and 574 certified volunteer Promoters. A modest paid staff coordinates and supports the volunteer services and programs from the international headquarters located in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Headquarters Staff

E. William Sockey... Executive Director
 Keith Bower Asst. Director of Education
 Richard Braun..... Regional Field Director, Central
 Erick Carrero Director of Spanish Development
 William N. Corey ... Director of Education & Director of Intl. Development
 John DuMont Regional Field Director, East
 Ann Gundlach Director of Publications
 Scott Hofmann..... Graphic Designer
 R. Patrick Homan ... Regional Field Director, West
 Jack Langlitz..... Business Manager

Italics designates part-time employee

Anna Bonavita..... Bookkeeper
 Vicki Braun Orders/Shipping
 Mary DuMont Transaction
 Judy Eichhorn Secretary
 Pauline Grome Secretary
 Tracy Jamison..... Order Dept. Manager
 Eileen Martin..... Orders/Shipping
 Anita McDonald Secretary
 Earl Michels Orders/Shipping
 Virginia Niehaus Assistant Office Manager
 Rosemary Olding Secretary
 Pam Puskamp Transaction/Shipping
 Silvia Schmidt Spanish Development Asst.
 Sandy Sperber..... Transaction/Shipping
 Margie Walter Purchasing
 Patricia Wentzel Transaction/Shipping

What Makes CCL Unique

CCL is the largest of several NFP provider organizations in the U.S. Some of the other groups also provide Sympto-Thermal instruction, while others teach other NFP methods. While these groups also provide quality NFP instruction, there are several reasons why CCL remains unique among the providers.

Couples attending a CCL class series or taking the *CCL Home Study Course* receive a very complete education in all aspects of NFP, including:

- ❖ Excellent instruction in all symptoms of fertility and infertility, various ways of observing the symptoms, and how they can be used in a cross-checking way for the greatest confidence and reliability;
- ❖ Complete instruction in the practice of ecological breastfeeding and its role in helping a couple space their children naturally as the only form of breastfeeding associated with extended postpartum infertility;
- ❖ A review of the various reasons, from the pragmatic to the spiritual, for choosing the NFP-only approach to family planning;
- ❖ Affirmation of the authority of the Christian Tradition regarding marital love, sexuality, and conception regulation;
- ❖ A pro-life message concerning the realities of contraception, including a description of the abortifacient properties of the Pill, IUD, Depo-Provera, and other hormonal contraceptives;
- ❖ Affirmation of the Christian call to generosity in the service of life according to one's circumstances;
- ❖ A teaching on abstinence that affirms the Christian Tradition against sexual perversities while also being very positive about the growth made possible by the chaste, creative use of abstinence.
- ❖ A support of full-time mothering in the context of encouraging ecological breastfeeding with its many advantages for baby and mother alike.
- ❖ An honest look at surprise pregnancies to encourage acceptance of each child as a gift from God whether asked for or not;
- ❖ A real involvement of the husband in fertility/infertility awareness, communication, decision-making, and parenting.

Locations	Teachers	Candidate Teaching Couples	Promoters
Alabama	5	1	8
Alaska	2	-	1
Arizona	3	3	5
Arkansas	13	1	7
California	41	28	13
Colorado	37	12	23
Connecticut	10	3	1
Delaware	1	-	1
Florida	27	10	15
Georgia	13	12	8
Hawaii	2	2	-
Idaho	2	3	5
Illinois	45	9	55
Indiana	23	6	19
Iowa	18	3	16
Kansas	12	6	6
Kentucky	10	1	8
Louisiana	52	13	55
Maine	4	1	3
Maryland	11	6	1
Massachusetts	13	2	7
Michigan	47	9	40
Minnesota	32	4	31
Mississippi	6	2	2
Missouri	19	3	19
Montana	2	-	1
Nebraska	19	-	19
Nevada	3	-	5
New Hampshire	5	-	2
New Jersey	9	2	4
New Mexico	5	1	6
New York	10	4	11
North Carolina	9	4	11
North Dakota	8	3	9
Ohio	49	7	25
Oklahoma	9	3	6
Oregon	10	6	4
Pennsylvania	19	5	13
Rhode Island	2	1	-
South Carolina	10	3	2
South Dakota	10	-	7
Tennessee	10	2	7
Texas	60	21	32
Utah	1	-	1
Vermont	7	2	1
Virginia	36	5	14
Washington	8	8	11
West Virginia	1	-	2
Wisconsin	15	3	16
Wyoming	2	-	2
Argentina	1	-	-
Austria	-	1	-
Belgium	1	1	-
Bolivia	-	1	-
Cameroon	11	16	-
Canada	3	1	2
Chile	-	1	-
China	1	-	-
Colombia	1	1	-
Czech Republic	7	8	2
England	10	1	1
Finland	-	1	-
Georgia	5	-	-
Germany	1	-	1
Honduras	4	-	1
Hungary	1	-	-
Iceland	-	1	-
India	1	2	-
Ireland	5	-	1
Korea	1	-	-
Mexico	5	1	-
Netherlands	3	1	1
Nigeria	-	1	-
Pakistan	-	1	-
Philippines	1	1	-
Poland	16	10	-
Puerto Rico	6	6	2
Rep. of S. Africa	2	2	-
Russia	4	2	-
Slovak Republic	3	-	3
Spain	1	-	-
Uruguay	-	1	-
Zambia	2	7	-

How Can CCL Help You

Sometimes the decision to use Natural Family Planning is a hard one; some couples may find they receive little or no support from family and friends. But all NFP couples find the support they need in the *Family Foundations*. It's the reason for our magazine.

Each issue of *Family Foundations* presents topics and issues that are important to NFP users, engaged and newly married couples, parents of growing families and families that are grown. We have several regular columns that address a variety of topics.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — CCL's Executive Director E. William Sockey III addresses issues that relate to NFP and/or CCL.

NATURAL PARENTING — Focuses on ecological breastfeeding and mother-baby togetherness.

NUTRITION & NFP — Marilyn Shannon writes on various aspects of fertility and how they are affected by nutrition. Very practical advice on how to make the practice of NFP easier for some.

THE MARRIAGE COUNSELOR — Gregory Popcak touches on marital issues, especially as they relate to NFP, as well as parenting topics.

FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS — William Gorman provides practical advice for handling money issues, always from a Christian perspective.

Family Foundations is published six times per year and also features regular sections for NFP-related updates, medical news related to women, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding, as well as news-type updates on social issues that relate to the family. Many readers tell us that their favorite part of the magazine is the section with letters from other readers. It is here that our members express support for each other and their mutual decisions to use NFP in this culture so dominated by the contraceptive mentality. They tell us it's reassuring to know they're not alone.

Spanish members now receive **FUNDAMENTOS... PARA LA FAMILIA**, a separate newsletter published to offer support to the growing percent of CCL constituents for whom English is at least a second language.

Current members are also entitled to receive any **NFP COUNSELING** help they may need, as well as the opportunity to take a **REFRESHER NFP COURSE** at any time.

A \$21.00 contribution gives you an annual membership to CCL and brings you these benefits.

How You Can Help CCL

PRAYER — Let us never forget that CCL remains in existence only because of the grace of God and the truth we teach. THROUGH HIM we learn His truth, WITH HIM we witness to His bountiful love, and IN HIM we place our hope and confidence. Your prayers will not go unheeded.

KEEP INFORMED — It is important to stay informed about all aspects of the overall family planning issue — what's good about NFP, what's wrong with contraception, and the effect of each on marriages, families, health, and the wider society — so you can pass this information on to others. With your active membership in CCL, you are kept informed through the *Family Foundations*.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS — Whether you are raising your family or already have married children and grandchildren, you will find much information in the *Family Foundations* magazine you will want to share. "Do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. Set it on a stand where it gives light to all. Your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:15-16). Also, remember our complete line of informational brochures are meant to be passed along to others, and our catalog contains a wonderful compilation of books, videos, and audiotapes which can enlighten others about NFP and other related issues.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT — There is no more difficult apostolate in the world today than ours — promoting and teaching marital and pre-marital chastity in a culture firmly opposed to this message. It costs money to produce and carry out programs that will combat the contraceptive mentality and all that has resulted from it — broken marriages, child abuse, psychological problems, drug and alcohol dependence, and disease. It takes time and money to train and support a widespread network of volunteer teachers and promoters. It takes time and money to counsel couples in unusual and sometimes difficult situations. We need your financial support to do this. Through your monetary donation you can personally take the initiative to assist CCL in providing the practical help of NFP instruction and teen chastity programs.



Mission Statement

The mission of The Couple to Couple League International, Inc. is to promote marital chastity through the teaching of natural family planning. The League teaches NFP in the context of a Christian, value-oriented approach to marriage. The League believes that marital chastity develops solid and healthy marriages, and lays the foundation for strong families. CCL also recognizes the need to promote family-related programs including teen chastity, ecological breastfeeding and the production/publication of related family materials when deemed necessary. It is, at least in part, through strong families that the body of Christ is built (Romans 12:4-5).

The Couple to Couple League

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www.ccli.org