

# Faith, hope and love



Carrie Ann Klein and Nicholas Brandon Fazio were married on Dec. 29, 2007, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Joseph B. and Mary Ann Klein. The groom is the son of Jack and Barbara Fazio. Father Stephen Banet, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis and a family friend, celebrated the nuptial Mass.

Photography by Joe DeFabis, DeFabis Photography, [www.defabisphotography.com](http://www.defabisphotography.com). Design by Ann Sternberg. Read this supplement at [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com).



# WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Alexander-Gaddini**

Emily Denise Alexander and Anthony Robert Gaddini will be married on April 26 at SS. Philomena and Cecilia Church in Oak Forest. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Lynn Alexander. The groom is the son of Oliver and Penelope Gaddini.



**Crouch-Strasser**

Jill Ann Crouch and Shane Allen Strasser will be married on April 25 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Bob Crouch and Justine Crouch. The groom is the son of Ron Strasser and Darlene Strasser.



**Graf-Keller**

Laura J. Graf and Brian C. Keller will be married on April 26 at St. John the Baptist Church in Dover. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Marlene Graf. The groom is the son of Stan and Paula Keller.



**Oehmann-Dupaquier**

Jessica Lee Oehmann and Justin Ray Dupaquier will be married on June 14 at St. John the Baptist Church in Starlight. The bride is the daughter of Danny and Lisa Oehmann. The groom is the son of Kerry and Georgina Dupaquier.



**Steinmetz-Pertile**

Marlaina Joy Steinmetz and Joseph Louis Pertile will be married on May 17 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Janice Thompson. The groom is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Pertile.



**Angle-Burkett**

Erin Ashley Angle and Brent Michael Burkett will be married on May 31 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Mark and Jackie Angle. The groom is the son of Kip and Debbie Burkett.



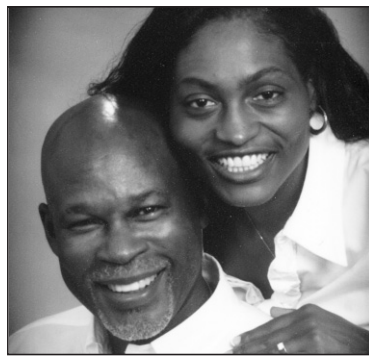
**Cummins-Trulock**

Megan Elizabeth Cummins and Patrick Steven Trulock will be married on June 21 at Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel at Marian College in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Paul and Lisa Cummins. The groom is the son of Janet Trulock and the late Steven Trulock.



**Harmeyer-Hilger**

Sarah Ann Harmeyer and Joseph Henry Hilger will be married on April 12 at St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Church in Rushville. The bride is the daughter of Michael and Doris Harmeyer. The groom is the son of Joseph and Elaine Hilger.



**Robinson-Hurdle**

Cynthia Joyce Robinson and Alejandro F. Hurdle were married on Feb. 2 at St. Monica Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ray Parker and Royalmetta Johnson. The groom is the son of Agatha Moore and the late Bill Hurdle.



**Stock-Cooper**

Shauna Courtney Stock and Randy Jay Cooper will be married on June 14 at St. Alphonsus Church in Zionsville, Ind. The bride is the daughter of Donald and Tina Stock. The groom is the son of the late Maggie Cooper.



**Downs-Valencourt**

Lindsay Erin Downs and Jesse Roy Valencourt will be married on June 28 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin Downs and Cathy Curry. The groom is the son of Rene and Leslie Valencourt.



**Huser-Lecher**

Lisa Marie Huser and Mark Andrew Lecher will be married on March 29 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Terry and Kathy Huser. The groom is the son of Charles and Ruth Lecher.



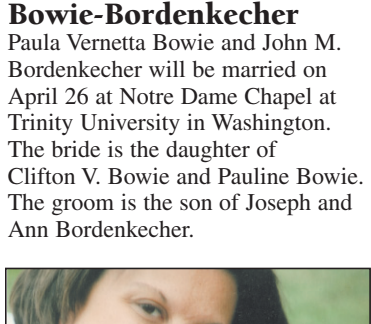
**Rossman-Altman**

Courtney Rossman and T.J. Altman will be married on June 14 at St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jack and Judy Rossman. The groom is the son of Therese Ardizzone.



**Ward-Pippenger**

Elizabeth S. Ward and Matthew S. Pippenger will be married on May 10 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. The bride is the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Ward. The groom is the son of Roger and Irene Pippenger.



**Bowie-Bordenkecher**

Paula Vernetta Bowie and John M. Bordenkecher will be married on April 26 at Notre Dame Chapel at Trinity University in Washington. The bride is the daughter of Clifton V. Bowie and Pauline Bowie. The groom is the son of Joseph and Ann Bordenkecher.



**Eddleman-Wagner**

Kristin Nicole Eddleman and Nicholas Jerome Wagner will be married on May 31 at St. Christopher Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Patty Eddleman. The groom is the son of Gary and Debbie Wagner.



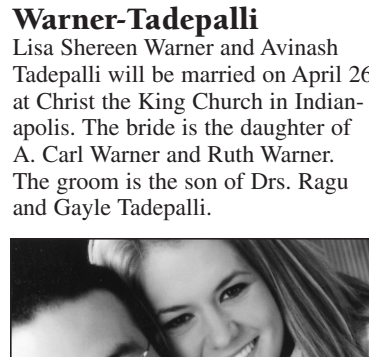
**Mittel-Wisenski**

Stacy Lynn Mittel and Stephen Michael Wisenski will be married on May 24 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Jeffersonville. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Maxine Mittel Sr. The groom is the son of Michael and Virginia Wisenski.



**Simmons-Rossman**

Kate Erin Simmons and Robert Linehan Rossman II will be married on April 12 at St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James and Linda Simmons. The groom is the son of Robert and Paula Rossman.



**Warner-Tadepalli**

Lisa Shereen Warner and Avinash Tadepalli will be married on April 26 at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of A. Carl Warner and Ruth Warner. The groom is the son of Drs. Ragu and Gayle Tadepalli.



**Byerley-McDonald**

Allison Ruth Byerley and Matthew Todd McDonald will be married on June 14 at Our Lady of the Springs Church in French Lick. The bride is the daughter of Wayne and Susan Byerley. The groom is the son of Bill and Teresa McDonald.



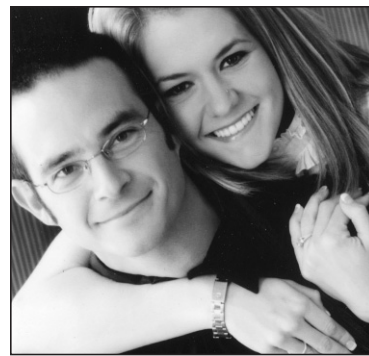
**Myers-Craig**

Rebecca Ann Myers and Jesse Robert Craig will be married on April 12 at St. Nicholas Church in Sunman. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Angie Myers. The groom is the son of Robert and Tammy Craig.



**Spaeth-Robben**

Ann Marie Spaeth and Irvin Joseph Robben will be married on April 26 at St. Mary Church in Rushville. The bride is the daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth Spaeth. The groom is the son of Anthony and Florence Robben.



**Webster-Bright**

Murielle Suzanne Webster and John Scott Bright Jr. will be married on June 28 at St. Mary Church in North Vernon. The bride is the daughter of Jon and Julie Webster. The groom is the son of John and Debby Bright. †

## There's still time to register for Pre Cana, Tobit Weekend

Engaged couples still have time to register for two marriage preparation programs in coming months.

The Pre Cana Conference, a one-day marriage preparation program, and the Tobit Weekend, a three-day retreat, are held at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis.

Pre Cana Conferences are scheduled on Feb. 17, Feb. 24, April 6, April 27, May 4, May 18, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Oct. 19.

For more information, call the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries at 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596, or log on to [www.archindy.org/family](http://www.archindy.org/family).

Tobit Weekends are scheduled on April 4-6, May 16-18, June 6-8, July 11-13 and Sept. 19-21.

For more information, call Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House at 317-545-7681 or log on to the archdiocesan retreat center Web site at [www.archindy.org/fatima](http://www.archindy.org/fatima). †

The Fall Marriage Supplement will be published in the July 18, 2008, issue of *The Criterion*.



# Sacramental themes highlight new marriage research

By Daniel Sarell

Special to *The Criterion*

For years, the paradigm for preparing couples for marriage has centered on the ongoing effort and learned skills, especially communication and conflict resolution, required for a healthy marriage.



Daniel Sarell

Learning those important skills comprises a very human response to the grace of the sacrament of

matrimony and remains crucial even as new research begins to highlight new themes.

For example, in Catholic marriage ministry, a new emphasis is emerging on the sacramentality of marriage, especially in light of Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body." Soon, that message will become better integrated with the skills-based themes of listening, family-of-origin patterns, time management and others.

With the phenomenal rise in the divorce rate, research has focused intensely on the consequences of conflict in marriage. While this emphasis is quite constructive, researchers and educators bemoan the negative tone of marriage education discourse such that we feel we are engaging more in "divorce prevention" than "marriage celebration." Thanks to new research, that's beginning to change.

In a recent "mini-symposium" published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* in May 2007, researchers Frank D. Fincham, Scott M. Stanley and Steven R.H. Beach review "emerging trends" which seek to redirect marriage research toward more complex processes and positive themes.

The traditional emphasis on marital distress and conflict, from an observational standpoint, is much easier to measure, and the correlations between conflict and divorce, abuse, poor parenting, chemical dependence as well as physical and mental health have been instructive, especially for therapists who are trying to help "at risk" couples.

However, this research has not always accounted for many variables that are not as simple to measure, such as when "reversal effects" defy predictable results

and a marriage seems to "fix" itself with or without professional intervention.

In other words, why do some couples seek counseling and still divorce, others are helped professionally and reconcile, and still others experience far more traumatic events, but never seek counseling and eventually repair any damage that has been done?

Researchers have to be careful about which factors they can objectively theorize to have ameliorating influences on relationship dynamics, and they admit that the ability to measure more abstract themes like "hope, virtue [and] character" require new, more "refined" methods of research.

Culture can shape many of these factors, rendering them different from one place to another or one religion to another.

Still, there are exciting new findings beginning to emerge, and certain familiar themes to our Catholic, sacramental understanding of marriage are being affirmed through empirical studies.

Fincham, Stanley and Beach highlight four themes in particular: "forgiveness, commitment, sacrifice and sanctification" as important "nonlinear" processes or "dynamics" that can lead to marital "transformation."

Forgiveness, the basis of Christ's redemption of humanity back to God's original creative plan, is being recognized as a critically transformative influence in marriage, one of the few processes by which significant damage can be helped to heal when spouses hurt one another.

Without forgiveness, the consequences of sins for which every spouse is guilty from time to time continue to snowball, leading to "negative downward cycles."

Rooted in Christ's act of redemption was his total self-sacrifice—death on the Cross.

When we think of a married person sacrificing for the other, we might associate that selflessness with a loss of happiness, ambition and satisfaction.

However, research is now suggesting that the transformative effect that sacrifice can have mitigates any sense of "loss" or "cost." The attitude and act of focusing on the collective "us" in marriage shifts the focus toward the common good rather than on "the price I pay."

In fact, sacrifice is closely related to deep commitment, a combination of dedication ("internal") and moral and

cultural values ("external").

It is this type of research that has led many to conclude that the leading cause of divorce is, in fact, the decision to get divorced, not the transgression or conflict that might have sparked such discernment.

The additional variables of "ambivalence" and "indifference" to the more linear or binary measurements of "happy" or "unhappy" have allowed marriage researchers to see trends that lead us to a deeper understanding of why some couples forgive each other or are resilient to even the most traumatic events while others may quickly bail out over relatively minor conflicts.

As Catholics, we believe that grace underlies all of these issues, which leads to the fourth major trend in this new research into "transformative processes"—sanctification, "the process whereby [marriage] is perceived by people as having divine character and significance," according to a 2005 study by K.I. Pergament and A. Mahoney published in the *International Journal of the Psychology of Religion*.

The extent to which people derive religious meaning from marriage has been shown to impact marital stability, in particular by deepening and motivating commitment, sacrifice and forgiveness.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) teachers have consistently taught both scientifically and anecdotally for years that those who practice NFP—most of whom are religiously and morally motivated to do so—report greater sexual satisfaction in their marriages and almost never divorce.

Though perhaps most of us are suspicious of "hocus pocus" types of "miracle stories," Catholics do tend to leave room for grace-filled miracles in our everyday lives, the types of miracles that don't make the newspapers.

In 2002, a study presented by L.J. Waite and Y. Luo at the American Sociological

Association found that 62 percent of "unhappily married spouses who stayed married reported that their marriages were happy five years later (and 77 percent ... remained married)."

Researchers call this a "nonlinear" example of "spontaneous remission." I submit that Catholics would call this a miracle of faith, God's action and presence in our lives and marriages.

Many, perhaps most, of those couples surely went through great suffering and put in a tremendous amount of effort to repair their damaged relationships, which on a personal level eliminates the "hocus pocus" from the equation.

Still, researchers have not yet been able to answer definitively why these marriages "self-repaired." However, they are recognizing the role of factors "deeply embedded in cultural traditions, such as ... [commitment, forgiveness,] sacrifice and sanctification."

In a time when pastors are finding that "integration" of Church teachings and new pastoral emphases must enhance the ministries that we are already doing rather than implementing new and expensive "programs," not only are we—as ministers—challenged to rethink how we educate couples in marriage, but we—as married couples—are also challenged to discern the role of faith in our marriages.

Are we faithful to the values of our tradition? Do we see the truly beneficial blessings of those teachings? And are we intentional about cooperating with grace as we live sacramental matrimony?

The answers might be closer at hand than we ever thought as faith and science catch up to each other and enhance family life through openness and dialogue.

(Daniel Sarell is the director of the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries.) †

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# Natural Family Planning strengthens couple's faith, hope and love

By Mary Ann Wyand

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is now simpler to understand, easier to practice and still 99 percent effective in regulating conception. It also follows God's plan for the human body.

Family life research has shown that practicing NFP strengthens a couple's faith, hope and love in their marriage by enhancing communication, respect and intimacy.

The Couple to Couple League International, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, recently published a new NFP curriculum described as "an extreme makeover" to help married couples follow Church teachings on sexuality and family planning.

"The Art of Natural Family Planning" features new program materials that are "animated by modern technology," CCL publications director Ann Gundlach explained, "and a more personal approach based on the timeless theology of [the late] Pope John Paul II."

CCL executive director Andy Alderson said the new NFP program materials represent three years of work and include an instructional DVD embedded with video clips of a priest and physician discussing the late pope's teachings on the "Theology of the Body" and instructions on the method as well as computer animation of ovulation and implantation.

The workbook is printed in color with lots of graphics that help NFP facilitators teach engaged and married couples in fewer class sessions.

"Because the new materials simplify the science of the Sympto-Thermal Method, they make room for greater emphasis on another important element—NFP's rich marital benefits," Gundlach noted. "That altered emphasis is reflected in the line added to CCL's slogan—'NFP: safe, healthy

and effective ... and it can change your hearts in surprising ways.'"

NFP materials promote "knowledge of fertility in order to achieve or avoid pregnancy through the Sympto-Thermal Method," Gundlach said, and also focus on responsible parenthood as "the virtuous application of this knowledge by couples who model dignity, respect and love for each other" in their marriage.

NFP teaching couple Mike and Ann Green of Carmel, Ind., who are now members of St. Alphonsus Parish in Zionsville, Ind., have practiced Natural Family Planning since they were married on April 26, 1997. They also felt called to teach NFP classes.

"Respect for the dignity of the human body is a key component of NFP because the body is created in the image and likeness of God," Mike Green explained. "Once couples start to see how beautifully the body is designed, they ... learn virtue and respect for their spouse. As a married couple, we give ourselves as gift to each other."

Practicing Natural Family Planning offers health benefits, Ann Green said, as well as relationship benefits.

"We knew that artificial contraception wasn't right," she said, "and we were so excited to learn about NFP. We took the [Church's] Pre Cana [marriage preparation] class and sponsor couple program before we were engaged, and our sponsor couple witnessed to us about how wonderful NFP has been for their marriage."

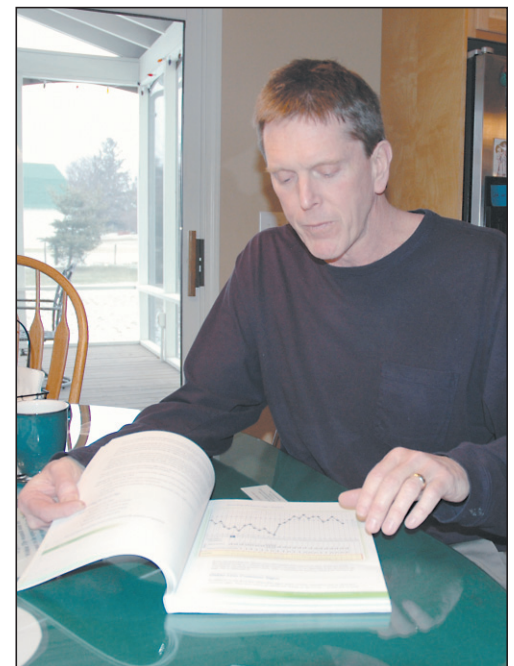
Aside from their desire to follow God's will by observing Church teachings, both Mike and Ann Green are engineers and were intrigued about the science of this very effective natural method of spacing children in marriage.

"We came to the understanding that NFP is a renewal of the marriage covenant," she

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Above, Couple to Couple League members and Natural Family Planning teachers Mike and Ann Green of Carmel, Ind., pose for a family portrait with their children, Jimmy, from left, John Paul and Mary. They are members of St. Alphonsus Parish in Zionsville, Ind.



Right, Mike Green explains a fertility chart in the Couple to Couple League's new Natural Family Planning materials, which feature a simplified method of charting the woman's fertility. For more information about the Couple to Couple League of Indianapolis, Natural Family Planning, and NFP class dates and locations, log on to the Web site at [www.nfpindy.org](http://www.nfpindy.org).

said. "It left us open to children and changed our hearts in surprising ways. We started to pray the family rosary and go to daily Mass. NFP is such a key component of our lives, and we want to share it with other couples." †

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