

MedCon keynote speaker to discuss reproductive and women's health breakthroughs

Dr. Thomas Hilgers is a pioneer in reproductive and women's health, and the founder and director of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction. Based in Omaha, Neb., the institute works to promote pro-life fertility practices. As the MedCon 2016 keynote speaker, Hilgers will discuss his experience as a Catholic physician and his breakthrough fertility procedure, Natural Procreative Technology.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Hilgers as our keynote speaker," said Dr. David Kaminskas, a Fort Wayne cardiologist who helped spearhead MedCon.

Over the course of his career, Hilgers has developed nearly 200 professional writings and is a clinical professor at Creighton University School of Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Since 1994 he has served on the Pontifical Academy for Life. He also served on the Pontifical Council for the Family and is a member of the Society of Reproductive Surgeons.

Inspired by St. John Paul II's encyclical "Humanae Vitae," which details the dignity of life from conception to natural death, Hilgers began working on the Creighton Model Fertility Care System while in medical school. CrMS, which aligns with the Church's teaching on Natural Family Planning, serves as the basis for NaPro Technology. NaPro is a medical- and surgical-based system that relies on the human body's natural cycle to cure infertility and is scientifically proven to have a high success rate.

"St. John Paul II was very much aware and supportive of Dr. Hilgers' work and the two men spent time together at the Vatican," Kaminskas said.

Hilgers knows firsthand the challenges of navigating the secular medical world. He was dismissed from a renowned training program due to his Catholicbased approach to fertility.

Referred to as a "medical visionary," Hilgers' innovation is an asset to fertility and reproduction research. He is also a testament to using the Catholic faith as a compass in the medical industry. A growing number of medical professionals practicing in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend use Hilgers' approach, including Dr. Christopher Stroud, Dr. Angela Martin, Dr. Patrick Holly, Dr. David Parker and Dr. Kathleen Heimann.

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