

BRIDAL GIFT REGISTRY has become a wedding tradition

Janet Mannelli is following in the footsteps of thousands of brides as she talks to Mrs. Jeanette Liddle, Bridal Consultant in McCurdy's Gift Registry on the Fifth Floor, Midtown.

Here she will select her china, silver, crystal, linens and kitchen needs, with Mrs. Liddle's professional assistance if she wishes it. Her preferences will be recorded, so family and friends shopping for wedding gifts know exactly what she wants, or already has, and can avoid duplications. Bridegroom Gordon Vigilante obviously approves of the entire set-up. Here, too, the couple can choose gifts for all their attendants.

There's a Bridal Gift Registry in McCurdy's of Geneva for those brides who live in the Finger Lakes area.

It's truly a "bride's world" at McCurdy's, with services to smooth every step of the way to her wedding day. Her dream gown is in the Second Floor Bridal Salon; Stationery Shop on the Street Floor makes the paper work a pleasure; Bake Shop on the Street Floor is the place to order her wedding cake; and Interior Decorating Studio on the Fourth Floor gives professional guidance for the couple's new home.

Shop Mondays through Fridays till 9, Saturdays till 5:45



Family Life Bureau: No Static Programs

"Can a couple be prepared for Marriage in a four-week course of Pre-Cana Conferences?" The answer to this question must, of necessity, be a resounding, "NO!"

It is frightening to us in the Family Life programs when we realize how much must be learned in the way of knowledge and self-discipline as a preparation for Marriage.

The picture is certainly not all gloom because a person starts their preparation for family life by being born into a family. Everything that happens within the structure of that family tends to mold and influence the child from its earliest years. All agree that the best form of Marriage education comes from a happy and secure home life.

Pre-Cana, for the couple from well-adjusted families, offers an in-depth understanding of why their families were happy and how they can insure the same for themselves.

But when one or both persons come from an unhappy family background, much must be learned or unlearned. And Pre-Cana offers a diversified series of topics that should stimulate the couple to mutual discussion and pre-planning. An intelligent examination of the areas of adjustment will help mature individuals recognize where they need to give more effort and concern.

We are continually challenged with the changing face of social values and mores. But we have the distinct advantage

of working a human nature that remains fairly constant in its actions and reactions.

This brings us to the fact that we in the Family Life Bureau cannot be satisfied with a static program for those about to enter Marriage and that we must bring up-to-date knowledge and programs to all stages of married life. There is a hope that we can give Pre-Cana programs for specialized groups.

We are probably the only Diocese offering a special Pre-Cana for Mixed Marriages two times a year. We visualize programs for those in service, college graduates, Spanish-speaking couples, newly-wed conferences and the like.

Other Counseling

In addition to the Pre-Cana Conferences we do provide lectures for married couples treating such aspects of Marriage as, "The Husband-Wife Relationship," "Parent and Child," and "Parent and Teenager." These are given usually on a Parish basis. There is always a need to re-examine the relationships in the family. Anyone can fall into habits of action or indifference that can make for unhappiness or even hatred.

It is impossible to treat deep-rooted problems that are making for the dissolution of Marriage. This always needs personal and individual attention that is provided in Family Counseling. We

are not organized to give such counseling but there are opportunities for this both inside and out of the Diocesan structure.

Cana Conferences are given once or twice a year in any Parish. This leaves a gap of time which can and should be filled with family and couple type groups. One of the most successful programs for couples is the Christian Family Movement.

In CFM couples promote their own advancement by engaging in the Apostolate of Catholic Action. One of the best ways of helping oneself is by helping others. And when this is accomplished as a husband-wife team, it will better the whole family unit. Many Parishes in the Diocese offer such meetings and the Federation under our auspices helps to coordinate their various programs.

We can't claim a monopoly on Couples Discussions Clubs and we are most happy that there are many in existence conducted by individual priests in the parishes. One of the more welcome additions to such family and couple programs is the coming of our Sisters into the role of Discussion Leaders and Moderators. Their help and dedication in this work will be more and more valuable in the coming years.

For many years we have provided programs and working material for mothers in their very special role in Marriage. At present there are 1700

members of Mothers' Circles in the Diocese. Who will measure the influence that has been given to the souls, minds, and bodies of the young through these monthly group discussions? Whoever controls the minds of the young, controls the destiny of the future.

The Unhappiness of Divorce

The tragedy of Marriage is always in its break-up. The husband and wife relationship established by the Marriage bond is so close and intimate that it always leaves a gap or a loss when it is broken.

When it is caused by selfishness and hatred ending in divorce, there is much in the way of adjustment necessary for meeting the every-day problems of life. To be bound and free at the same time must wreck mental and emotional havoc within an individual. And we are all familiar with the difficulties that are laid upon the children in such a situation. We, all of us, must bend every effort to help families avoid such catastrophes.

There is one dissolution of the Marriage bond over which we have little control and that is death. Although this is the natural end of the Marriage bond, this does not bring with it a natural solution to the difficulties that can arise from it. This is especially true when there are younger children. To this end, there has been formed a group called The Catholic Widowed

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