

## Mixed Marriages Need Extra Effort

(Continued from Page 13A)

riage and we would suggest a meeting with the other's clergyman. In this Diocese we offer a special Pre-Cana Conference for those entering a mixed marriage and many of the Catholic teachings and ritual is explained during it.

These special conferences attempt to show how necessary it is to avoid putting too much emphasis on the differences. It is my contention that much of this failure to obtain happiness and peace in a mixed marriage is due to the fact that religions, being different, are given the blame for other deficiencies. Rather than face the real problem, it is simple to say that, "All Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Other? are like that."

Rather than look to the roots of the problem, we sometimes have ignored the real issue. And in doing so, have let it grow. In fact, we have added another log to the fire of the dispute, the personal hatred toward the other's faith.

### The In-Law Problem

Nowhere can the problem of in-laws be more pronounced in the married situation than in a mixed marriage. We are all aware of the familiar image of the "mother-in-law." Parents normally are very concerned that their children obtain the best mate in marriage possible. Their image of a prospective spouse is one of the same race,

suitable financial background, and the same faith. If they happen to have good looks, that is an added benefit.

One of the first questions that a parent will ask is pertaining to the religious background of their child's intended. This attitude of suspicion and doubt about the character of one who belongs to a different faith is not easily changed and many an unpleasant scene has taken place over the subject of religion. Often the parents' demands are unreasonable and unjustified.

Even after the marriage there can be much in the way of interference. If not open, at least there can be the snide remark, or a raised eyebrow. It is important that the young couple keep their patience and avoid those words that start arguments. The best way to allay the parents' fears is a happy marriage and not even letting them know of your petty spats.

Having different religious backgrounds does not mean that you cannot have a spiritual life together. All religions honor God as the Supreme Being. There is no specific prayer or formula that is perfect or better than others. Composing a prayer that fits the needs of the couple is more meaningful and certainly as effective as one we have memorized.

Only one thing matters, that you join together in talking to God, at table, with the children, at times of need. If a couple develops this practice naturally, they will be able to pray easily in

front of their children and thus give them a heritage of spirituality to which they are entitled. And too, there are many programs in each other's Church that the whole family can attend. These may be either religious or social.

### Marriage is a Challenge

Every marriage is a challenge. Mixed marriages demand more in the way of adjustment but can have advantages of greater understanding and commitment. But this does not come naturally or easily. And often the guidelines are unclear and vague. Much of the liter-

ature on the subject is rather pessimistic and negative.

We might suggest a mutual reading of, "Protestant-Catholic Marriages Can Succeed" as an initial step to positive programs of adjustment. It is a recent book by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Simon on how their marriage has been successful. This will give an insight into the Lutheran-Catholic Marriage.

There are many other possible "combinations" with varying degrees of personal spiritual intensity, but there will be no understanding or adjustment unless there is that first long look.

## Catholic Marriages Survive

According to a survey of 72,485 wedded couples, marriages in which both partners are Catholic stand the best chance of surviving. Such unions are successful 96.2 per cent of the time, the survey said.

The authors of the study, Lee Burchinal and Loren E. Chancellor, reported that the lowest survival rate, that of Catholic-Unspecified Protestant (28.7 per cent successful), was not caused so much by religious reasons as by the circumstances associated with the lack of affiliation or identification with a church by the non-Catholic partner.

Other "survival" statistics produced in the survey:

Presbyterian-Protestant (other than Presbyterian) 94.6; both Lutheran 94.1; both Protestant (smaller groups) 94.0; Lutheran-Protestant 93.0; Methodist-Protestant 92.9; both Methodists 91.4; both Presbyterian 91.0; Catholic-Lutheran 90.5; Baptist-Protestant 90.5; Catholic-Presbyterian 89.8; both Baptist 89.8; Catholic-Protestant (smaller groups) 89.1; average for total population 87.6; Catholic-Methodist 83.8; unspecified Protestant-Protestant 82.7; Catholic-Baptist 81.6; both unspecified Protestant 35.0.

## Status Quo Out At Family Bureau

(Continued from Page 7A)

Parent Club. This arm of the Family Life Bureau offers to widows and widowers a reintegration into the mainstream of life by offering programs of spiritual, intellectual, and social meaning.

Our purpose in outlining a cross section of our activities has been not only to call attention to their existence but also to give a reminder that there is a necessity to approach Marriage and Family Life as a continuing process. It must grow and increase. There is a tremendous grace in the Sacrament that must be frequently activated — that the Marriage ceremony is not the end but only the beginning.

The nature of Marriage is such that it is a continual challenge and every obstacle overcome together is another rung scaled in the ladder of happiness.

And Marriage can never be considered as a private affair. It is performed in the presence of the community. It demands the moving into the community. It exercises influence upon all who come in contact with it. It provides new members for that community and establishes, by its actions, the standards of said community.

Those who accept the call to the vocation of Marriage must recognize the strength that can be found to help their weakness. Equally important, they must be ready to share their life with others.

## Pre-Cana Sessions

Rochester	
Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 21, 28	(3 p.m.) Guardian Angels—2061 East Henrietta Road
	(7:30 p.m.) St. Monica's—845 Genesee St.
May 5, 12, 19, 26	(3 p.m.) St. Ambrose—31 Empire Blvd.
	(7:30 p.m.) St. Thomas More—2617 East Ave.
June 16, 18, 20, 23	(7:30 p.m.) Sacred Heart—296 Flower City Pk.
July 14, 16, 18, 21	(7:30 p.m.) St. Boniface—330 Gregory St.
Aug. 18, 20, 22, 25	(7:30 p.m.) St. Charles—3003 Dewey Ave.
Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29	(3 p.m.) Corpus Christi—880 Main St. East
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27	(3 p.m.) Our Lady of Lourdes—168 Rhinecliff Dr.
Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24	(3 p.m.) Holy Family—899 Jay St.
	(7:30 p.m.) St. Monica's—34 Monica St. (Mixed Marriage)
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22	(3 p.m.) St. John the Evangelist—549 Humboldt St.
Auburn	
Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24	(2:30 p.m.) Sacred Heart Hall—Melrose Rd., Owasco
May 5, 12, 19, 26	(3 p.m.) Holy Family Hall—North St., Auburn
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22	(3 p.m.) St. Alphonsus Hall—Genesee St., Auburn
Elmira	
Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24	(8 p.m.) Our Lady of Lourdes—W. Church St.
Apr. 21, 24, 28, May 1	(8 p.m.) Our Lady of Lourdes—W. Church St.
Sept. 8, 11, 15, 22	(8 p.m.) Our Lady of Lourdes—W. Church St.
Dec. 1, 4, 8, 15	(8 p.m.) Our Lady of Lourdes—W. Church St.
Newark	
Apr. 21, 28, May 5, 12	(3 p.m.) St. Michael's Hall—320 South Main St.
Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3	(3 p.m.) St. Michael's Hall—320 South Main St.

## Careful Planning Builds Foundation

(Continued from Page 10A)

members of the wedding party. The bride and groom, at least, should receive the Sacrament of Penance shortly before the Marriage. Confession plays an important role in preparing Catholics for all the Sacraments, and Marriage is no exception.

On the eve of the wedding it's a liability to have an unrestrained party extending into the wee hours of the morning. Keep the entertaining simple on this night. Everyone, but especially the bride and groom, will appreciate the wedding day more if they are reasonably rested and alert.

When the wedding day arrives, careful preparations will pay dividends. The ceremony will start on time (an important point if yours is not the only wedding scheduled for the church on that date), the best man will produce the rings at the correct time; but most important, you will both be able to enjoy each experience of the day since you will not be worrying ahead to ill-planned dinners and receptions.

Planning for Marriage provides you both with an opportunity to plan and work together. Your ability to cooperate and reach mutually agreeable decisions speaks well for your success as husband and wife.

Your willingness to think of the feelings of others by observing proper etiquette indicates that you are developing the thoughtful disposition needed for success as father and mother.

## THE DISCOVERY SHOP



INTERNATIONAL STERLING  
THE INTERNATIONAL SILVER COMPANY

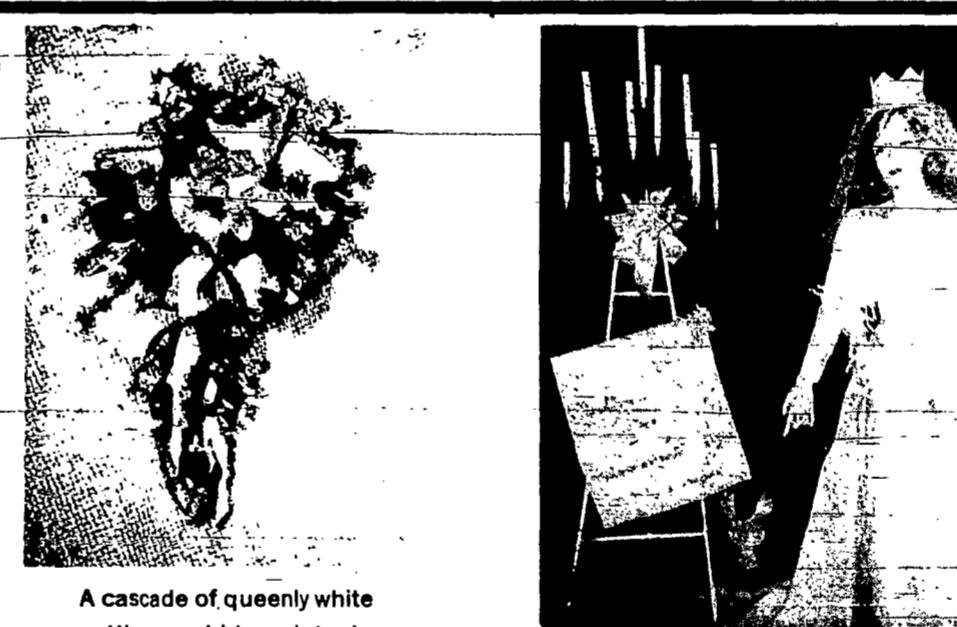
P. S. FOR THE BRIDE  
WHO IS SEEKING THAT ONCE  
IN A LIFETIME TREASURE

## The Discovery Shop

Main Street, Fishers, N. Y.

Follow Route 96 East and turn right on Main St., the first road past the Thruway underpass. The Discovery Shop is on the left, about a mile down the road.

Monday to Friday 10 'til 5  
Saturday and Sunday 1 'til 5



A cascade of queenly white calla lilies and stephanololites.



A crescent of lovely white phalaenopsis orchids and white roses.



Heather, violets and white roses charmingly styled in the colonial tradition.



A prayer book with sweet-scented hyacinths and green touches of ivy so elegantly simple and lovely.

## Wedding Flowers of Distinction by Sisters

The happy, busy days will be filled with wonderful plans for your wedding. Regardless of the type of ceremony you decide upon, flowers will play a symbolic part in making it memorable and beautiful. Because this is your day let every floral detail reflect you. We are anxious to convey our best wishes to you personally and hear about your wedding plans. Drop in soon . . . or better yet, phone for a special appointment at your convenience so we can have some floral suggestions ready for you when you come in. Together we will carefully consider all the details of your wedding . . . the style of your dress, the season, the type of ceremony, etc. The flowers we will design just for you will be individually styled to make this day one of good taste, beauty and happiness.

In our shop a wedding is a cherished assignment . . . and we sincerely hope you will give us an opportunity to style flowers for yours. May we also offer this Wedding Gift to you. After you have made your floral selections simply present this bridal ad and we will be delighted to deduct 10% from your bill.

Evening Wedding Appointments Welcomed.

## SISTER'S FLOWER SHOP

FREE PARKING ON OUR PREMISES

132 GENESEE ST.

235-1351