

A Revolution In Pre-Cana

By **ARTHUR and ELLEN MAURER**
Pre-Cana Chaircouple

A quiet revolution is taking place in the Diocese of Rochester.

Pre-Cana, the program of marriage preparation for engaged couples, is undergoing massive changes in content and purpose. Since any engaged couple complete the series only once, few are aware the change is taking place.

Pre-Cana has been in existence for twenty years. It has been traditionally a four-session program with two of the sessions run by priests, one by a doctor, and one by a group of couples. The couple groups ran lecture oriented sessions concentrating on "how-to" in areas such as finance, insurance, in-law relationships and consideration of each spouse for the other.

Pre-Cana couples felt a need for a change. A new purpose was developed—to have married couples share their experiences on the level of feelings with the engaged couples. The four sessions were rearranged to include one priest session, two couples' sessions, and one doctor's session.

A new set of guidelines was developed. More time is now allotted for discussion among engaged couples and work

is also in progress to improve the priest's session and better coordinate engaged couple instructions on the parish level with the Pre-Cana Program.

Is Pre-Cana satisfied? In a word—No!

To improve the program for college students, a program similar to that used in the Archdiocese of Montreal is being piloted in Brockport with the help of the Family Life Committee of the Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen.

Development of a totally revamped Pre-Cana has begun. Its purpose is to have engaged couples explore their feelings together about the decisions they have made to get married, to marry each other, their expectations of marriage, and how their expectations were formed.

Lead couple preparation will require an intensive eight week program and each series will be developed by the individual couples leading it.

Eventually, Pre-Cana programs run by lead couples in their homes will be feasible.

An objective of the Office of Family Life is to make Pre-Cana a fascinating, relevant program for the engaged couple—to the point that they will come because they want to, not because they're asked to.

Pre-Cana Schedule

ROCHESTER	
Apr. 2, 16, 23, 30	8 p.m. St. Francis, 401 Orange St.
Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27	8 p.m. St. Theodore, 170 Spencerport Rd.
May 2, 9, 16, 23	3 p.m. St. Francis 5:30 p.m. St. Francis 8 p.m. St. Francis
May 9, 16, 23, 30	4 p.m. St. Charles, 3003 Dewey Ave.
June 6, 13, 20, 27	3 p.m. St. Francis 4 p.m. St. Margaret Mary, 400 Rogers Pky. 5:30 p.m. St. Francis 8 p.m. St. Francis
July 11, 18, 25; Aug. 1	4 p.m. Corpus Christi, 880 Main St. E. 8 p.m. St. Francis
Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29	4 p.m. Christ the King, Kings Highway S. 8 p.m. St. Francis
Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26	3 p.m. St. Francis 4 p.m. St. Ambrose, 31 Empire Blvd. 5:30 p.m. St. Francis 8 p.m. St. Francis
Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24	3 p.m. St. Francis 4 p.m. Sacred Heart, 296 Flower City Pk. 5:30 p.m. St. Francis 8 p.m. St. Francis
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22	8 p.m. St. Francis
Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28	3 p.m. St. Francis 5:30 p.m. St. Francis 8 p.m. St. Francis
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26	8 p.m. St. Francis
Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29	8 p.m. St. Thomas More, 2617 East Ave.
Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26	3 p.m. St. Francis 4 p.m. St. Pius X, 3000 Chili Ave. 5:30 p.m. St. Francis 8 p.m. St. Francis
AVON	
May 9, 16, 23, 30	3 p.m. St. Agnes, Prospect St.
NEWARK	
Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9	3 p.m. St. Michael, 320 S. Main St.
Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31	3 p.m. St. Michael
ITHACA	
May 7, 14, 21, 28	8 p.m. Immaculate Conception
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22	8 p.m. Immaculate Conception
HORNELL	
Apr. 18, 21, 25, 28	3 p.m. St. Ann, 29 Erie Ave. (Sun.) 7:30 p.m. (Wed.)
ELMIRA	
May 16, 19, 23, 26	8 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes, West Church Street
Sept. 12, 19, 22, 26	8 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes
Nov. 28; Dec. 1, 5, 12	8 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes
AUBURN	
May 16, 23, 30;	3 p.m. Holy Family School
June 6	North Street
Sept. 12, 19, 26; Oct. 3	3 p.m. St. Alphonsus School 95 E. Genesee St.
SENECA FALLS	
Apr. 25; May 2, 9, 16	3 p.m. St. Patrick's School, W. Bayard St.

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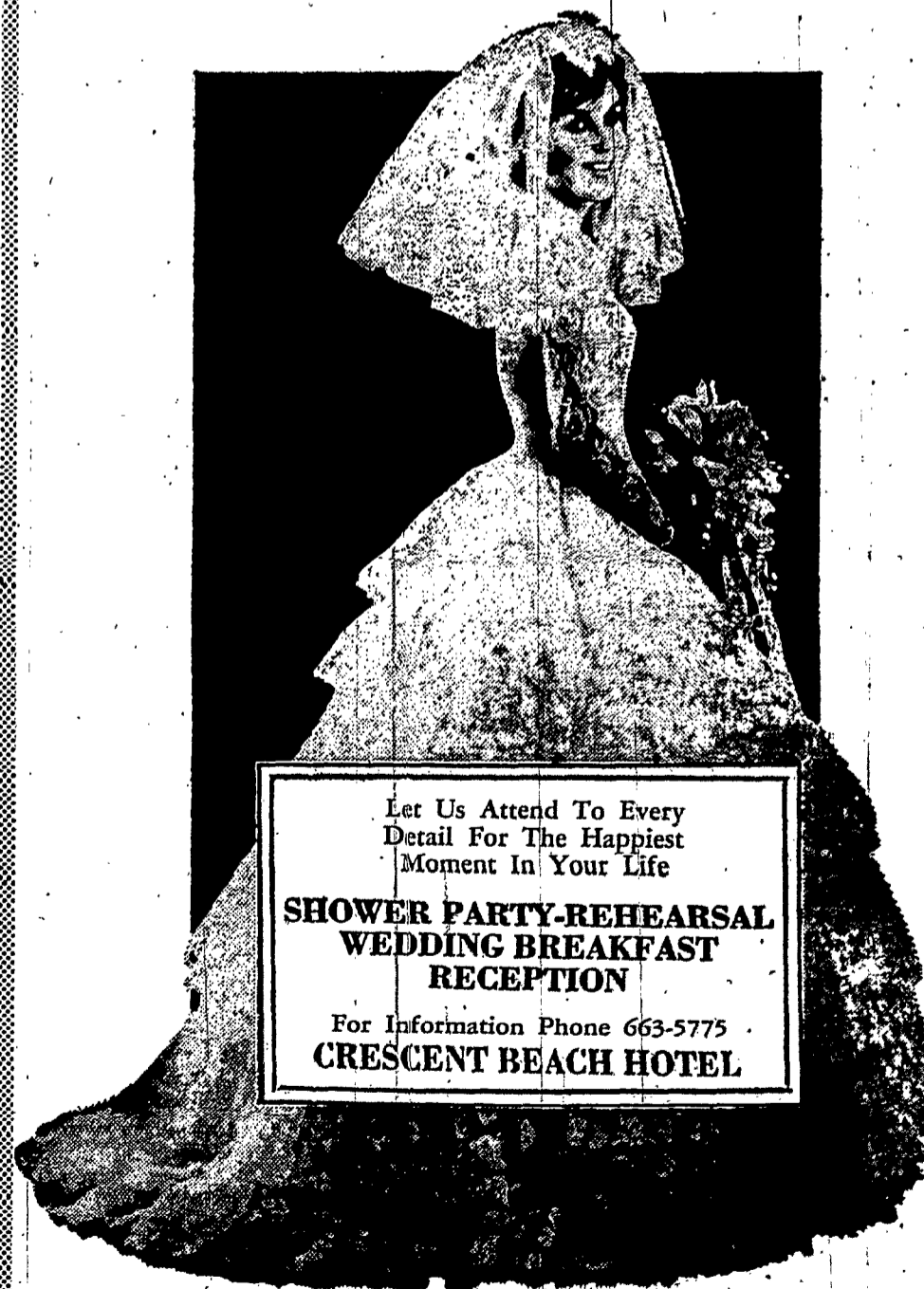


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