

Diocesan Family Programs

Preparation of engaged couples for marriage and development of programs to enrich family life are the responsibility of the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Rochester. The diocesan director is Father Robert Collins whose office is located at 401 Orange St., Rochester. Father Roy Kiggins directs programs in the Elmira area at Our Lady of Lourdes Rectory. Father John Glogowski at Sacred Heart Rectory, oversees the direction of programs in the Auburn area.

The **Pre-Cana Conference** is a series of talks by priests, married couples, and physicians with the purpose of preparing engaged couples for marriage. In these talks engaged couples have an opportunity to examine their love for one another in the light of the reality of married life.

The Office of Family Life provides a variety of **Cana Conference** programs to fit the needs of individual parishes.

Couples Retreats are held at Notre Dame Retreat House or the Cenacle Retreat House. The director helps parishes and parish groups to plan specialized retreats or days of recollection for married couples.

The **Christian Family Movement** is a national ecumenical movement of, by, and for married couples and their families. Its couples meet bi-weekly in small action groups at each other's homes to talk about how they can love their neighbor more effectively. Assisted by a guide book they observe a problem from daily life. They judge whether the situation needs to be changed. They agree to act to bring the world closer to what Christ wants. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Charlton, 65 Hillary Dr., Chili, are the diocesan chaircouple.

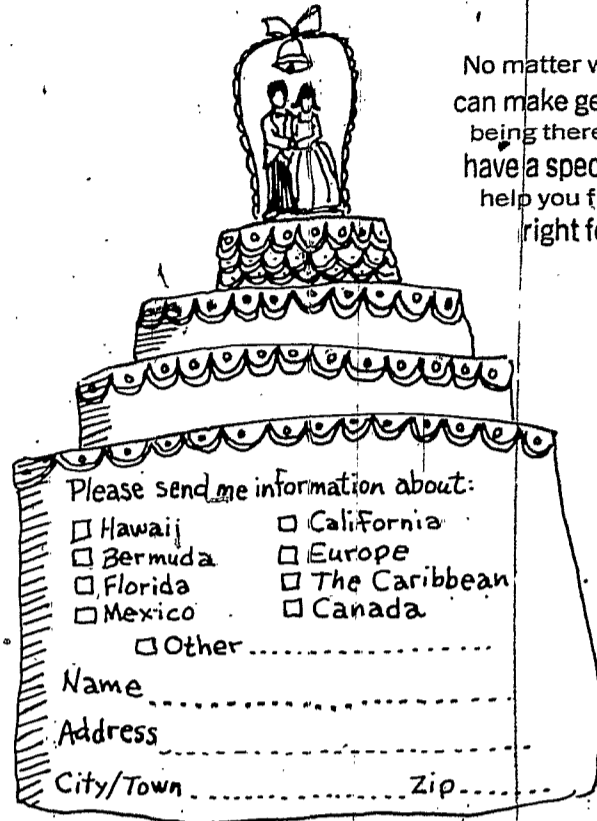
Marriage Encounter is a weekend where each participating couple is given the opportunity to renew their basic commitment to each other. The Encounter team, a priest and two married couples, encourages each husband and wife to question and evaluate their relationship with self, spouse, and God. Occasions for private dialogue between husband and wife let them discover for themselves the great beauty of their marriage. Encounters are held monthly (beginning in June) at the Cenacle Retreat House. Further information is available from Mr. and Mrs. Alan Monahan, 340 Filbert Pl., East Rochester.

Mothers' Circles are groups of mothers meeting monthly to discuss, to learn, to be inspired to be better mothers. An agenda containing articles of interest to mothers of teenagers, youngsters, and toddlers is supplied for each meeting. Groups are free to follow the agenda, to work from a selected text or engage a speaker for their meetings. For information regarding formation of a Mothers' Circle, please contact the Office of Family Life.

The **Catholic Widowed Parent Club** is a spiritual, informational, and social program for widowed parents of school-age children. It meets the first Friday of each month (September-June) at 8 p.m. at St. Theodore's School, 168 Spencerport Rd., Gates. James Meecham is president of the group.

The **Judean Society** exists to bring understanding and friendship to divorced and separated Catholic women. A spiritual and social program is held the third Friday of each month (September-June) at St. Monica's Rectory Meeting Room, 34 Monica St., Rochester at 8 p.m. Mrs. Marie Guyette is president of the Judeans.

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