

Apalachin People Tell Of 'Marriage Encounter

By JOY CHALONE

Ithaca — Why would a group of married couples drive 45 miles on a Sunday evening to talk to another group of couples that . they don't even know? Why would a couple, whom you don't even know, offer to babysit your children for a whole weekend?

Answer: Marriage Encounter. No, not a sensitivity training session; not an encounter group experience; not a conventional couples retreat; and not a problem solver for 'marriages on the rocks.'

Marriage Encounter (M.E.) is a crash program (one weekend) in learning a technique of communication (showing and telling feelings) between husband and wife.

Immaculate Conception Parish has begun its encounter movement, thanks to Father Richard Belligotti and a group of couples from the small village of Apalachin, an hour and a half drive from here. It is only in 'grass roots' stage now, but unless Ithaca area people are immune. it has to mushroom. Sixty couples have made their M.E. from Apalachin's St. Margaret Mary Parish. And their M.E. experience was so good, they are compelled to help others gain that experience.

Chuck and Eleanor Cornett were one of the couples who spoke to the Ithaca group, gathered for an informational meeting. They, tell about their M.E. experience.

"It's a feeling you gain, something warm, a kind of tenderness you rediscover. It's like going back to before you were married. It wasn't embarrassing to hold hands then."

As they took turns talking you were aware of their case with each other. "You learn to express yourself," Chuck and Eleanor went on, "Not to say what you think, but to say what you feel. It's like "falling back in love."

Marriage Encounter began in Spain 14 years ago under the direction of Father Gabriel Calvo, who saw his society becoming too 'think' conscious, intellectualizing, instead of feeling. Four years ago it was brought to America and M.E. weekends in English began.

Since then at least 15,000 couples have made their Marriage Encounter, 120 of them from the Southern Tier.

The weekend begins Friday evening and continues until late afternoon Sunday. It is a boot Camp, to discover what a great thing married couples have going for them and how wonderful God has been in giving them each other.

Between 15 and 30 couples are scheduled for a weekend, and it doesn't matter if they have been married 6 weeks, 6 years, or 60. All are welcome.

Format for the weekend consists of nine main presentations, made to the group by either a priest or one of the three team couples who have made the retreat and have had a training period.

They talk about their experiences with M.E., giving concrete examples of what happened to them. After each short presentation, each couple goes to a private room to write down answers to questions given to them, concerning the presentation. They are to write as if writing a letter to husband or wife.

A sample question to be answered would be, "How do you feel about making this retreat?" The writing down seems to bring OUL fcelings Otherwise hidden. There is no discussing in group sessions with the other couples.

Four main themes are developed; "I" • (d0 I understand my, self), "We" - (do we really understand each other), "We and God" - (do we see where God is in our marriage) and "We, God and the World" - (do we see how our marriage, with God, fits into the world around us).

Keeping Tabs

Rosarians at St. Andrew's will celebrate the 95th birthday of their spiritual adviser, Msgr. George W. Eckl, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the school hall. The anniversary party has been a fixture of the Rosary Society program for many years. Mrs. Stanley Kolupski will preside at the regular meeting.

Morcy High School girls and their mothers will welcome newcomers to the school at a tea, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24. Mrs. John Kearney is chairman.

College of St. Rose aluminae will meet at 8:30 tomorrow night, Sept. 21, at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Matteson, 195 Merrick. A program on cheese and wine will be given by Ed Kent.

The 80th Seton Branch will meet with Mrs. Fred Blum of Greenbriar Drive at 8:30 tonight, Sept. 20.

The Rosary Guild of St. Joseph's, Penfield, will have a tureen supper Wednesday, Sept. 27, after Mass at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. John Kiley is chairman.

St. Margaret Mary's Altar and Rosary Society will hold its fourth annual garage sale on Friday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the rectory garage, 401 Rogers Pkwy., Irondequoit. Proceeds will be contributed to the Bishop's Southern Tier Flood Relief Fund.

The Holy Name parish council has elected Donald Popeck president and Michael Moore vicepresident. Dr. Allan Palmer is secretary and Christine Bastian, parliamentarian. The council also named William Parry and Mary Priest to the parish finance committee.

Memorial Mass For Fr. Sheehan

A memorial Mass for Father Peter E. Sheehan will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, in Kearney Auditorium, St. John Fisher College. Father Sheehan, who died last July in Toronto, had been a dean and faculty member at Fisher, 1956-1967, and a leader in Rochester MUSIC circles.

Father Joseph Trovato, chaplain at the college, will celebrate the Mass under the auspices of the Alumni Office. Alumni, their families and other friends of Father Sheehan are invited. Residents of Nunda Boulevard will hold their sixth annual curbside sale Saturday, Sept. 23, to' raise money for trees. Baked goods and handmade articles will be offered along with attic treasures, Clothing, books and games. The sale will begin at 10 a.m. Rain dates are Sunday, Sept. 24, at 1 p.m., or Saturday. Sept. 30 at 10 a.m.

Greenleaf Meadows Bridge Club of Greece is sponsoring a needy child in an underdeveloped country through the Christian Children's Fund.

The Rosary Society of St. Patrick's Church will hold its first meeting of the Fall on Sunday morning, Oct. 1, after the 8:30 Mass. Women who wish to join will be welcome. New officers are Carmella Toscano, president; Mary Mancone, vicepresident; Doris Franckowiak, secretary, and Angie Colletti, treasurer. The Holy Name Society of St. Francis Xavier Church recently elected these officers: Bernard Gennarino, president; James Sellers, vicepresident; James Viavatine, secretary; John Albano, treasurer, and Joseph Mazzullo, marshal.

A dinner for all women of Holy Ghost parish will be given at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, by the Sacred Heart Society. Taking reservations are Marilyn Sabol, 594-2472, and Anne Gunn. 889-1373.

A tureen supper of international favorites is scheduled for 6:30 tonight, Sept. 20, by the Rosary Society of St. John's, Greece. Father William Spellecy, associate pastor, will speak.

Court FitzSimons, Catholic Daughters of America, will have a pot luck supper at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, in the Lima Town Hall. Mrs. Elvira Luhowy is chairman.



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Ithaca — Tonight, Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Center, registration for the new "Family Religious Education" program will be held. All parishioners are urged to come.

Penn Yan — St. Michael's Sewing Group met at Soldiers and Sailors Hospital recently to do sewing chores for the hospital. Interested persons please contact Mrs. Ruby McClure.

Penn Yan — The Nocturnal Adoration Society meets on the third Saturday of each month for an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 p.m. Saturday through the early morning hours up to the 7 a.m. Sunday Mass. Organizers for this are Vic DeSanto and Jim Curbeau.

Watkins Glen — Teacher Training Classes in Christian Education are now being given at St. Mary's of the Lake Church center. A song fest in honor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will be held here.

Odessa — St. Benedict's will hold a rummage sale this month. Please bring items to the church basement or to Mr. Martin's barn.

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