

What Is Pre Cana?

A Pre-Cana team consists of five married couples, a priest and sometimes a doctor. The team endeavors to stress attitudes, principles and values which govern married life. The methods used are presentations, films, games and discussion. The leader couple helps five engaged couples discover more about themselves and the relationship they can expect to build with their mate. The aim of the team is to show the

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engaged couple that they are part of God's continuing plan and how they influence each other, the family, the Church and Society.

The Pre-Cana program is open to all interested couples preparing for marriage. In the metropolitan Rochester area, pre-registration is necessary for every Pre-Cana Conference. Pre-registration cards and Pre-Cana schedules are available at every rectory. Engaged couples are asked to fill out the pre-registration card indicating a first and second choice of the conferences they wish to attend. Pre-registration cards are to be sent to the Office of Family Life. The Office of Family Life notifies those couples whose first choice of conferences cannot be honored because that session is full.

A registration fee of \$10 per couple is charged all couples who attend metropolitan Rochester Pre-Cana Conferences. This

money supports both the regional program and the Office of Family Life.

A certificate of attendance is given to those who attend the Conference. The certificate is to be shown to the parish priest when final arrangements are made for the wedding.

Pre-Cana teams exist in each diocesan region. Regional Family Life Coordinators recruit couples, doctors and priests for the teams and schedule sessions. The regional coordinators for Monroe County are: North Region, Father Bernard Dollen; Northwest Region, Father Robert Bradler; Northeast Region, Father Donald Schwab; Southeast Region, Father Joseph Hart; Southwest Region, Father Mark Miller.

Coordinators for regions outside Metropolitan Rochester are: Livingston, Father Richard O'Connell; Seneca-Cayuga, Father Edward Palumbos; Chemung-Schuyler, Father Vincent Panepinto; Tompkins-Tioga, Fathers John Glogowski and Thomas Watts; Wayne-Ontario-Yates, Father David Gaesser; Steuben, Father Louis Vasile.

Family meeting initiated by the groom's family

The first contact between the bride's and groom's families should be initiated by the groom's parents. This can be done by a simple telephone call or letter extending an invitation to dinner at home or in a restaurant.

The bride and groom may wish to attend, if only to perform the necessary introductions.

Should the groom's family not make the initial overture, it is perfectly proper for the bride's parents to do so.

In those cases where the parents live at too great a distance from each other for a convenient get-together, a congenial letter from the mother of the groom is acceptable.

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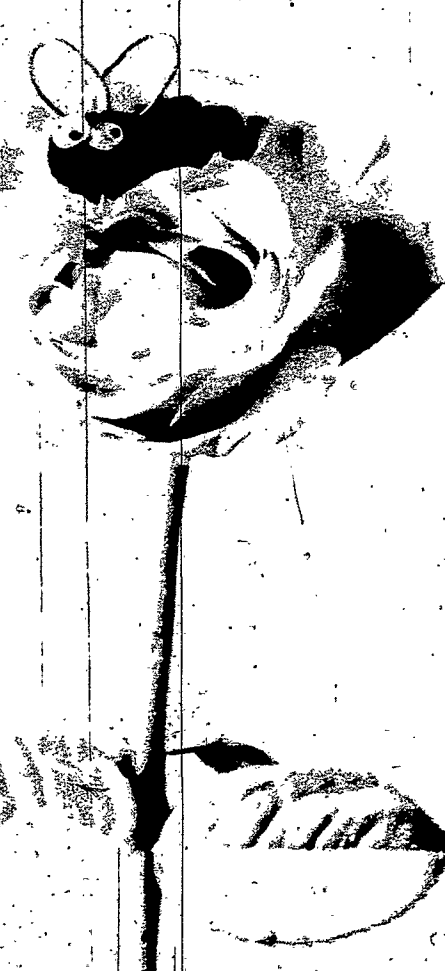
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