



Photo by Religious News Service

"The Lord said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helpmate for him." (Ge. 2:18)

### Prepared for Marriage?

Whenever we hear of someone becoming engaged, there is a certain excitement as we talk with them. All of the usual questions are asked: When? To whom? Where are you going to live? Are you having a big wedding? Have you ordered your gown, or your tux? What about the flowers, the attendants? There is definitely enthusiasm emanated whenever the bride or groom speak of their forthcoming event.

Engagement should be looked upon as a special vocational state — that time in which the couple is preparing to be married. One of the questions we should also ask the engaged couple is: What type of a preparation program will you be participating in? Just as we prepare and train for our career, which may change several times during our working years, so should we prepare for marriage, the beginning of a vocation which is permanent, lifelong.

The Church wants the couple to be as well prepared for Christian marriage as possible. This is why there are Pre-Cana Conferences and Engaged Couple Encounters. Marriage preparation programs are designed to assist engaged couples in discovering their attitudes and values as they prepare for marriage in the light of

the Gospel Message. The Church requires marriage preparation out of love and concern for the couple.

Engaged couples have the opportunity to learn from the lived experience of married couples who witness their belief in Christian marriage as a way of life. They have the opportunity to develop insights and attitudes that will be a part of their continuous growth which will eventually culminate in marriage. It is advisable that couples attend their Pre-Cana Conference approximately six months in advance of their wedding. This allows time to internalize what they have discovered about themselves and their intended well in advance of the hectic final weeks before their wedding.

The topics presented at the Pre-Cana Conference include: Attitudes and Lifestyles; Communication; Role of Husband/Role of Wife; Finances; Spirituality in Marriage; Sexuality in Marriage; Outside Influences — Friends, In-laws, etc.; Family Planning and Children. Marriage Ceremony. Pre-Cana format consists of presentations by the five team couples and the team priest; small group discussion; audio-visual aids; dialogue between the engaged couple. The goal of marriage preparation experiences is to enable the

engaged couples to grow in their knowledge of the values of Christian Marriage.

### Wedding Photo Plans

When planning your wedding, remember to keep the future in mind. After all, that's what weddings are all about.

And no matter what style wedding you are planning, it deserves to be preserved in professional photographs. Although economizing is, of course, necessary, the bride should not neglect the best possible photographic coverage of the important occasion. Photographs will keep it alive and fresh not only for the wedding couple but for their children and grandchildren in years to come.

date is set, especially if she is getting married during the more popular months — June, August or December.

Several weeks before the occasion, the couple should discuss with the prospective photographer the kind of photos they want. This should also provide the opportunity to look at the photographer's portfolio of other wedding photos he's made and to consider different styles.

Wedding portraits can be formal, dramatic, and romantic with special photographic effects and props, or they can be informal, casual, even candid, as the couple prefers.

If you are planning a budget wedding, again consult the photographer's package prices. It is a good idea to have photographs of the event from start to finish — you'll never be able to restage the event.

The Eastman Kodak Co. advises prospective brides to book a professional photographer as soon as the

### BUREAU MOVING

The State Marriage Bureau will be moving the weekend of April 14-16 to the third floor of the new City Hall at Church and Fitzhugh streets.

The bureau points out that marriage licenses may be obtained at any town hall.

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### Cutting Expenses

Marriage can be mighty expensive, especially in the beginning when you're trying to stretch a budget to cover both everyday living expenses and new home furnishings.

Don't let tight money mar the foundations of your new lifetime partnership. Instead, work out reasonable budget, figure out mutual priorities where money should be spent, and take advantage of money-saving tips whenever possible.

Here are some ways you may be able to economize without feeling the pinch.

— Whenever possible, cook from scratch. Convenience foods generally cost more than the basic ingredients needed to cook the same meal. And your personal culinary efforts are sure to produce a better tasting meal, as well.

— If you have a choice between washing or dry cleaning a garment, do wash it — it costs less. (check the clothing manufacturer's sewn-in permanent care label to be sure.)

— Dry cleaning bills can eat away at your budget, so skimp on this luxury whenever possible.