



Members of the CANA Group met recently in the home of Bill and Kay McGraw of Penfield. Guest speaker at the meeting was Diedra Epstein, representative of the League of Women Voters.

Cana Group Marks 26th Year

By Terrance J. Brennan

One can sometimes judge how successful a small organization is by how long it remains active in a community.

Currently in its 26th year of existence, the CANA group boasts nine area couples as members, and continues to meet every month during the year to informally discuss topics of both religious and civic importance.

Members of the group are Richard and Jean Scott of Pittsford; Louis and Rose Quadrini, Hilton; Larry and Mary Ann Quigley,

Rochester; Bill and Micky Erb, Greece; George and Joyce Eichas, Hilton; Bill and Kay McGraw, Penfield; John and Mary Lou Regan, Rochester; Don and Joan Aman, Penfield; and Chet and Helen Harkola, Rochester.

The CANA group was founded in 1955 as an offshoot of a similar group which has since folded. According to group spokesperson Jean Scott, they were contacted by a mutual friend from this other group who asked if they would be interested in forming their own group to help handle some of the overflow of the other group's potential membership.

Without a doubt, the informality of the meetings is a big reason the group has managed such a lengthy existence. There is no such thing as meetings held in stuffy halls or other rigid atmospheres. All meetings take place in the homes of the members, rotating to a different location each month.

During the summer, a few members of the group get together to organize the coming year's schedule of speakers. This year, guest speakers include Fathers Louis Hohman, Dennis Shaw and Joseph Dorsey; Diedra Epstein, a representative from the League of Women Voters; and Carmen J. Viglucci, editor of the Courier-Journal, among others.

available to anyone interested by calling ABW at 232-7353.

The Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation grant will enable ABW to broaden community knowledge about domestic violence and expand available resources through increased liaison, training and coordination with community agencies, service providers and professionals.

In the past, speakers have included: Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, the late Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, and Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, as well as Father Joseph Reinhart and missionary sisters from Selma, Ala.; and representatives of the Rochester Police Department for a discussion of the drug problem.

Insights In Liturgy

By Reverend Benedict Ehmann



Advent: A Sensuous Season

By Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ

Advent, as a part of the church year, gives us an opportunity to concentrate on the Lord's coming into our lives. At first glance, the season may seem to pull us in two seemingly opposite directions: we look back to the breaking into our history of God becoming flesh and we look forward to our breaking out of history and flesh becoming God.

Yet rather than tear us apart by pulling in opposite directions, Advent instead centers us, unifies us, gives us an opportunity to "put it all together." For in this season, we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in "that mystery hidden from ages and generations past but now revealed... the mystery of Christ among us, our hope of glory." (Col. 1:26-27)

Certainly, every season of the liturgical year gives us

the opportunity, but it is specifically in Advent that we are urged to "wake up," to "look," to "prepare," to "listen" for "the kingdom is at hand."

It is Advent that calls us to wash the sleep from our eyes, clean the dust out of our ears and remove even the slightest film from our hands.

It is Advent that challenges us through the prophet's words to be people who no longer just see, or hear, or touch, but to see and stand in awe, to hear and be amazed, to touch and experience deep wonder.

It is Advent that moves us to lose ourselves in seeing, hearing and touching Emmanuel. And in the losing of ourselves we find our true selves: people who experience God present in our midst, God with us.

In Baptism we begin to live the life of the Lord; in Eucharist we say Amen to taking on His dying and His rising. Every moment of life is sacred or can be. Every encounter is an experience of God or can be. Every

experience is a sharing of the Paschal Mystery. Advent is the time to actualize that faith potential within.

It is time to consciously immerse ourselves in looking, expecting, listening, reaching, and ultimately seeing, hearing, and touching God as He comes to us now.

Advent says see the miracle of the ordinary and be amazed; see, hear, touch, experience things as they really are — an experience of our God.

Advent is, indeed, a sensuous season, a season taken up with looking, listening, reaching out.

"Go back and report to John what you hear and what you see: the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the poor have the good news preached to them." (Matthew 11:4-5)

Led by the Gospels and challenged by the prophets, our blindness is cured, our leprosy healed, our hearing restored. And we experience the presence of our God in our midst. The Lord has indeed given us a sign that which we bypassed and considered ordinary, that which we ignored and thought barren; that which we overlooked and considered too simple. For, "the virgin shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel — a name which means 'God with us.'"

St. Helen Plans Special Advent

St. Helen's Parish will launch a special observance of the Advent season, beginning this weekend, by celebrating the different ministries and groups in the parish community.

According to Sister Mary-Brigid Quinn, RSM, pastoral assistant, the liturgical season offers "an appropriate time to look at who we are and who we can become," as a parish unit. "Who we are," she said, "as a parish family is apparent in those members who generously give of themselves that we may grow together in and through Christ."

Each weekend in Advent will focus on a particular segment of the local community. This weekend, for instance, will celebrate all those who are in any way involved in education, taking the Scriptural theme, "Those who lead others to justice shall shine like stars for all eternity." To symbolize the group, a star will be brought in procession to the front of the church and placed near an empty crib, itself a symbol of the Advent season.

Sister Quinn also outlined the groups and their symbols for the remainder of the season: liturgical planners and workers, a chalice; service groups, hands; the aged and infirm, a prayerbook.

The groups celebrated will be specifically cited in the Opening Prayer, the Homily, the Prayers of the Faithful, and the Special Blessing during the liturgy, following the Mass specific group

members and their families will be feted with coffee and doughnuts in the school.

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