COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, November 26, 1980



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 Ann Mary

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

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.

munity. This weekend, for instance, will celebrate all those who are in any way involved in education, taking the Scriptunal 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; servicegroups, hands; the aged and infirm, a prayerbook.

According to Sister Mary-

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 com-

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

St. Helen's Parish will members and their families launch a special observance of. doughnuts in the school. the Advent season, beginning



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Quigley, membership. **Battered Women Unit Issues New Handbook**

Alternatives for Battered Women has announced the. publication of a "Handbook for Battered Women," and the receipt of a grant from community education and advocacy.

The handbook outlines the legal steps which may be taken by a woman victim of domestic violence. It is

Insights.

In Liturgy

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.

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.

CRUISE FEB. 14-21

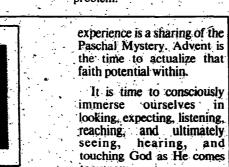


Benedict Ehmann the opportunity, but it is specifically in Advent that we are urged to "wake up." to "look," to "prepare," to

By Reverend

Advent: A Sensuous Season

"listen" for "the kingdom is at hand." **By Sister**



to us now.

of our God.

In the past, speakers have included: Bishop Joseph L.

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

It is Advent that calls us to wash the sleep from oureyes, 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 andexperience 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

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'."

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