

## Pre-Marriage Programs Offer a Quiet Time Out

Dear Special Lovers

Congratulations! Couples planning to be married are so full of joy and hope — that's why we are calling you special lovers. We, too, are pleased about your upcoming marriage, and we share in your excitement and your hope. We are delighted you are choosing to be married in the Church, as we know that symbolizes a caring for each other and a commitment to each other and to God that is very special. We believe in Christian Marriage as a way of life, and we want the best for you and your future.

To help you in planning for your future, we urge you to take some time very soon to attend a Marriage Preparation Program. On the Pre-Cana schedule, appearing in this issue of the Courier-Journal, and also obtainable from your parish, you will notice the dates and places of the sessions we have scheduled. There are one-day sessions included especially for those couples with different working times, or where one of the couple is out of town. Engaged Couple Encounter dates are listed, too. This group has an excellent program which you may want to consider.

Also notice the special program — New Horizons — for those persons who have been previously married and have gone through the Church annulment process, as well as those persons entering

a second marriage as the result of the death of a spouse.

We recommend that you register for one of these sessions as soon as possible — participation six to eight months before your wedding date is ideal.

Marriage is a lifelong experience of challenges to grow as individuals, and as a couple. We who are involved in the Ministry to Engaged Couples care about you and your marriage and we are anxious to share with you. We see marriage preparation as the opportunity for the two of you to get away from the hectic details of planning your

wedding day, and to spend time together with other engaged and married couples and a priest to do in-depth thinking about marriage as a vocation. After all, your wedding is a day — your marriage a lifetime.

Again, congratulations. Our prayer is that God will bless you as you prepare to celebrate your marriage and that His love will continue to shine upon you as you grow through your years together.

Peace, Love and Joy  
Jim and Donna Fitch  
Pre-Marriage  
Coordinators

## Unique Gift Ideas

Running out of ideas for wedding gifts? Want to be original in your gift-giving? Some unique gift ideas, which will make you long-remembered by the bride and groom, are sprinkled throughout this issue. One such suggestion — a chiming doorbell that plays "I love you truly." These come in kits with different programmable tunes. Just the thing for the couple moving into a first home.

or to dry a freshly-mopped floor.

How about a gift certificate from your favorite store's hardware department for the purchase of hammers, pliers, tapes and all those other expensive fix-it tools necessary for the new home?

An unadorned mirror shaped to fit a narrow hall's end wall, or the blank space over the powder room sink.

Friends can go in together on this one — a garage door opener.

Lightweight floor fans, the kind that has protective grilles on either side, can be popped into a window, hung in a doorway, or used to spread around the air-conditioning,

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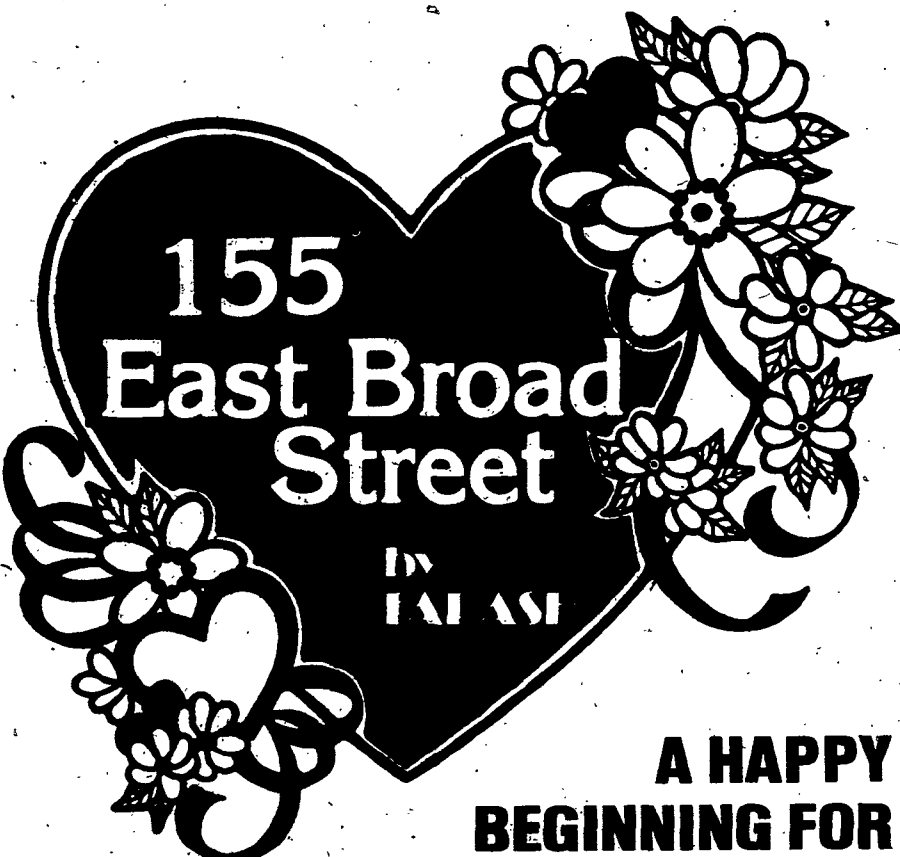
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