

Program Geared For Second Marriages

With the recent interpretation of Church laws regarding marriage, many more Church annulments are being granted. This means that some persons find themselves coming to the Church and asking to be married for the second time. This presents a new concern for the Marriage Preparation Ministry.

Are there "special problems" in second marriages different from those encountered by persons marrying for the first time? And if there are, shouldn't there be a different kind of preparation for marriage separate from Pre-Cana that can reach out and deal with these unique issues?

These are some of the questions the Office of Family Life presented to a group of couples who are already experiencing second marriages. Using these basic questions as a starting point, these couples, along with a priest and single persons, have developed a pre-marriage program for persons who will be entering marriage for the second time and for their spouses-to-be, even if they have not been married previously.

Entitled "New Horizons," this program covers the following topics: self-awareness; communication; sexuality; attitudes; present and future children; former spouses; in-laws; past and

present; finances; and the importance of our sacrament in the Church and society today.

This program, in its second year, is for those persons who are in the process of or have been granted a Church annulment, as well as those entering a second marriage as the result of the death of a spouse.

Couples who have experienced the program have benefitted from it. Some of their comments: "I feel this program was fantastic and really went into depth for second-time marriages with or without children;" "It makes

you think and talk about things that maybe you wouldn't know how to express."

Realistically, problems will exist in a second marriage, but solutions are possible with rich and rewarding relationships resulting.

The next New Horizons sessions are April 27, 29 and May 1, and July 6, 8, 10 at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Rd. Registration can be made by obtaining a registration card from any parish, and sending it to the Office of Family Life. For more information, call Jim and Donna Fitch, Pre-Marriage Coordinators, (716) 436-5450.

A Jeweled Variety

The first joint financial effort made by a couple may be the purchase of bridal jewelry to signify belonging. Ordinarily, he buys it, and she wears it to show she is promised.

Prices vary, so it pays to shop around but the never-to-be-broken rule is deal with a reputable jeweler.

The four stones that are considered to be in the precious gem group are diamond, ruby, sapphire, and emerald.

Semi-precious gems include

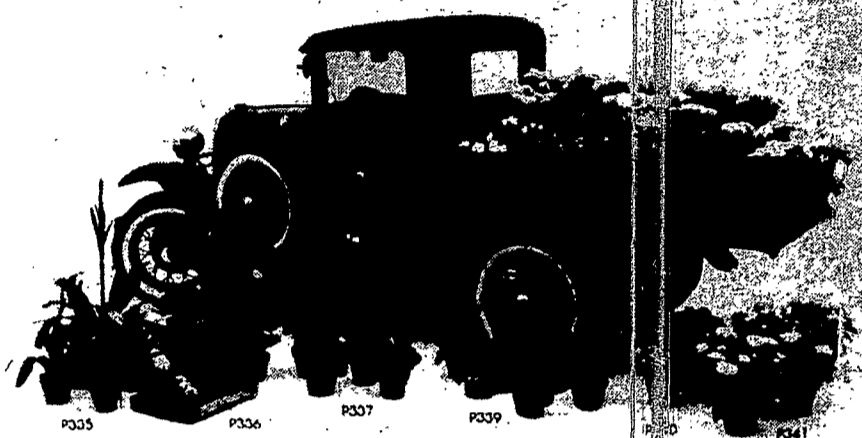
opal, amethyst, aquamarine, moonstone, and spinel.

Natural gems are minerals mined from earth, and bearing nature's flaws. Organic: coral and pearl from animal, amber and jet of vegetable origin.

Synthetic gems have the same chemical composition and physical properties as natural, but are flawless. Treated stones are natural stones with value increased by chemical coloring, heat treatment to change colors, radiation in which the change of color is usually not permanent.


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