

Whole Family Should 'Encounter,' ME Told

Ithaca — The National Marriage Encounter Convention at Ithaca College gave more than 600 couples from across the country an opportunity to learn how to further improve their marriage and family life, and help others in the same aims.

The national convention, the first ever on the East Coast, drew 1,300 persons Aug. 5-8.

The participants chose from among more than 75 workshops and lectures, many featuring widely-known experts in their fields.

Topics ranged from family nights to "Fidelity Restored," from "A Hospice Concept," to "Human Sexuality."

One featured speaker was Father Gabriel Calvo, the

Spanish priest who founded Marriage Encounter.

Father Calvo, no longer involved in Marriage Encounter, now runs a service organization he calls FIRES which provides family-oriented programs to those who have been through a Marriage Encounter.

Father Calvo used some real fire during his talk Saturday morning in which he argued for an involvement of the whole family in the encounter movement.

Father Calvo attended a regional Marriage Encounter conference at Ithaca College in July 1980, soon after FIRES was formed, and urged a greater involvement of children in the encounter movement.

He used matches as

symbols for the fire that exists within each person, and showed how much brighter the fire got when the two matches, and then more matches representing children, were brought together.

"The couple," he told those present, "is the key; couple is the core of God's plan."

"But just couples?"
"No."

He quizzed the couples and their children present on their daily activities, the role the Bible and prayer, especially family Bible study and family prayer, have in their lives.

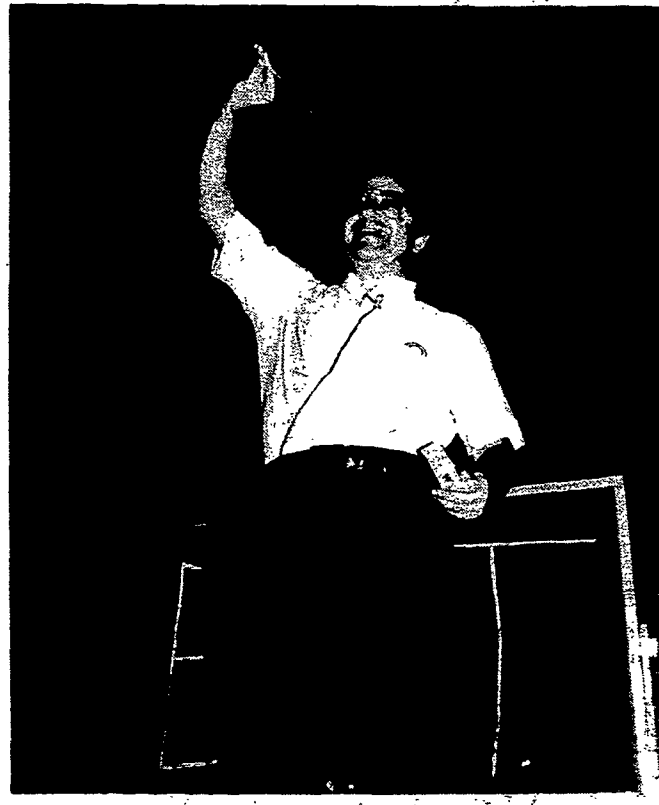
Love within a family is the responsibility of the parents, he said. Children won't believe love exists if they don't see it at home, he said.

He said he would rather the couples not return home to tell their friends about what happened at the conference. He would rather they use the lesson of the conference to benefit their home lives.

He suggested the families create something in the home to be done as a family. "Give a message from the conference," he said, "by doing something together."

Thirty-six couples and their teenaged children participated in a workshop given by Father Calvo and Jose Hernandez, his assistant, on family relationships.

The parents and their children separately prepared lists of the 10 things most needed in their homes. The recitation when the groups were brought back together brought exclamations from both groups.



"Fired up" Father Calvo.

The next three items for the parents were prayer, togetherness and trust. The teenagers listed communication, understanding and trust.

The convention began Thursday afternoon and concluded at noon Sunday. Entertainment took place each night, and Catholic, Protestant and Jewish services

took place during the weekend.

Next year's convention will be at Notre Dame University.

The couple chairing the convention were Joy and Allyn Smith of Ithaca. John and Dorothea Watts of Horseheads headed up sales and supplies for the conference.

Liturgy Office Publishes List

The diocesan Liturgy Office has published a booklet outlining all Fall 1982 and Spring 1983 programs. A copy of this annual schedule and description of workshops and various liturgical events has been sent to parishes and chairpersons of parish liturgy committees.

"There's excitement in the air," Sister Nancy Burkin, associate director of the office,

said. The scheduled events, she reported, were prepared partly in response to stated needs by the more than 400 people who participated in the recently completed national study, "Ordo Missae."

Father Thomas Mull, diocesan liturgy director, said of the people, "They were interested enough to raise questions, my hope is that people will respond to our

attempts to answer their needs."

Workshops will include training sessions for new lectors, special ministers and ushers. Also offered will be enrichment sessions for present liturgical ministers (including pastoral musicians and parish liturgy committees).

Of special interest will be workshops featuring Father Michael Joncas (Oct. 16, for pastoral musicians), and Father Eugene Walsh (Nov. 13 and April 23, for the "people in the pews").

It is hoped that participation in one or all of these programs will foster a continued growth in prayer and allow more people that experience of their active, liturgical participation, a liturgy office release stated.

"A special attempt," the office said, "has been made to provide these sessions all over the diocese (including Elmira, Corning, Painted Post, Geneva, Seneca Falls, Rochester, Auburn, Seneca Falls, etc.). The cost of each session has been kept to a minimum because of the funding of the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal. In addition to our scheduled events, the Liturgy Office will also be able to participate in various parish workshops throughout the year. Pam Schaeffer, resource assistant, can be contacted at (716) 328-3210 for details on these and all of our programs."

Asked what was most important, the parents all said love. Their sons and daughters thought freedom most important, listing love sixth.

Father Calvo pointed out that within any family, it would be necessary to define the terms more closely before any conclusions could be reached. He also noted that to a married couple, love plays a different role in the family relationship than it does for children.

Concert to End With Bang

A fireworks display will close the two final concerts of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's 1982 Finger Lakes Music Festival Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21-22, at the Community College of the Finger Lakes in Canandaigua.

In addition, a free helium balloon will be given to each child at the concert.

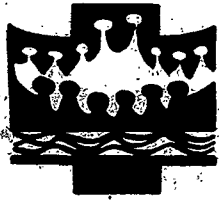
Erich Kunzel will conduct "A Cole Porter Celebration;" both concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Flea Market

A Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held Aug. 19, 20 and 21 at the Catholic Women's Club offices at 492 East Ave. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the club's scholarship fund. The address is at the rear of 494 East Ave.

Insights In Liturgy

By Father Robert Ring



Baptism: A Minister Reflects

At 13, I asked my mom, "Am I old enough to be baptized yet?"

In good Southern Baptist tradition she replied, "Better wait at least one more year."

And so, at 14, during the evening worship service, I was submerged in the waters of Baptism.

This may seem an unusual starting point for a priest reflecting on Baptism, but it was my first experience of Baptism, an evening to remember well. What made it special? Does such a different tradition have anything to offer a priest now administering the sacrament in the Roman Catholic Church?

Whether infant or adult, with pouring of water or with immersion, certain elements must be present for a powerful celebration of the sacrament. Anticipation is one such element. Having to wait until old enough taught me how special, how unique Baptism is in the life of the Christian, his or her family, and the Church. A public act, Baptism required preparation.

Since then I have discovered the same is true of infant Baptism. Having a mother share her hurt that no one took time with her and her husband to prepare for the sacrament taught me a lesson. No matter how routine for a priest, baptismal instruction and Baptism are unique and

special events in the lives of the parents. In a group session with a collection of strangers, that is almost impossible to convey. Yet spending time separately with each couple, it's difficult not to see two excited, anxious, gifted people of God. At few times in their lives will this couple be more receptive to reflecting, praying, looking to the future and making a commitment.

Those same qualities capture the celebration itself. If the minister takes the time to call the family and friends to reflectiveness, to open their hearts to God's movement in their lives and that of the child to be baptized, then the symbols will speak eloquently. Provided, of course that there is ample water to see, hear and feel, a garment that is not a token, oil used solemnly and a space that allows the community to gather in an intimate, welcoming way. No matter what words are used, if the community is scattered through the pews and lost to the physical aspects of the sacrament, rather than gathered around the font, little sense of welcoming and celebrating is possible.

Finally, there can be power in a communal celebration. Preparation is time for individual attention, a time to address the particular needs of a family. With that groundwork established, the celebration itself should open the couple and their family and friends to the community dimension of Christian Initiation. In such a setting, the celebration of Baptism can be one of the most joyful occasions imaginable.



Brubeck's Mass

Public Broadcasting Service will air a one-hour television documentary about jazz composer Dave Brubeck's music for Mass. The telecast marks the first time a major network airs a program funded by the Catholic Communication Campaign. The Mass, commissioned three years ago, was first performed in 1980.

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