



Sister Josephine McNerney leads a discussion with a group of divorced and separated Catholics in a Bronx classroom. These people regularly meet to discuss the pain they are trying to deal with as individuals. A growing number of parishes and dioceses are recognizing the needs of divorced and separated people and are reaching out to help them. (NC Photo)

Support Group Available for Second Marriage Couples

Because of the recent interpretation of Church laws regarding marriage, many more Church annulments are now being granted. As a result, an increasing number of people are coming to the Church, asking to be married. This presented a new concern for the marriage preparation ministry.

In light of this, the Family Life Office addressed a group of couples already in second marriages, with the following concerns:

Are there special issues and situations in second marriages that differ from those in a first marriage?

If so, shouldn't there be a pre-marriage program for these couples that differs from Pre-Cana and addresses these unique issues?

Using these basic questions as a starting point, these couples, along with a priest and single persons, 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, past and present in-laws, fiancés, and the importance of our sacrament in the Church and society today.

New Horizons, in its fourth 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 found it enlightening and beneficial. Some of their comments:

"I feel this program was fantastic and really went into depth for second-time marriages with or without children."

"There were areas addressed that we hadn't given any thought about." Another said, "It makes you think and talk about things that maybe you wouldn't know how to express."

In many instances the

efforts of interfacing two families, or other complexities only experienced in a second marriage, can require additional adjustments not faced by couples being married for the first time. A realistic look at, and a practical approach to dealing with some of these complexities from the beginning can result in rich and rewarding relationships.

The next New Horizons session is scheduled for May 9, 11, and 13 at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road. Registration can be made by obtaining a registration card from the parish and sending it to the Family Life Office. Or, for more information call Jim and Donna Fitch, Marriage Preparation Coordinators at (716) 436-5450.

Knowing Basics Can Help Photos

For the amateur photographer shooting a wedding, the primary concern is cost. It can be expensive to record a wedding in pictures. If one can get by the initial expenses then here are tips to insure success.

- Carry twice as much equipment as you would normally. This includes two cameras, two flash units, a double set of replacement batteries, etc. Rely on the unexpected to happen. If something can go wrong, it will. Having the extra equipment along will help prevent an embarrassing situation from surfacing.

- Carry twice as much film as you think you would normally use. If you expect to shoot three rolls, then carry at least six. The reason — you can figure on losing about 25 percent of your pictures due to camera movement, flash failure, mechanical difficulties. Also, no matter how many pictures you take, there is always that unique shot you won't want to miss.

- High speed film makes better use of available light during exposure so your wedding pictures can be taken inside, under existing lighting conditions, if your camera has this capability.

- If you know there is a specific shot you want —

like the cake cutting — but are not sure when it will take place, find out exactly when it will happen. You should not have to ask the parties involved to set up the shot again because you were somewhere else.

- Try to sit on the aisle to record the wedding procession. You'll also be in a position to picture the newlyweds as they walk down the aisle after the ceremony.

- Take the time to thoroughly plan your schedule. If your itinerary calls for being at the bride's home on the wedding morning, then be there a little early to catch the excitement of everybody bustling about. If you know there will be relatives from out of town, make sure that their visit is recorded.

Never Too Old

If you believe that you are too old to be married, think again. The oldest bridegroom in history, so far as is known, was Ralph Cambridge, who was 105 when he married his 70-year-old wife in South Africa in 1971, according to The 2nd Mammoth Book of Trivia (A&W Visual Library) by Bruce D. Witherspoon.

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... THE TOAST ...

Advice in a light manner also makes helpful lead-ins to the toast — "Accept and, preferably, share each other's hobbies and enthusiasms. If he's nuts about camping and your idea of roughing it is the Imperial in Tokyo, try to develop an enthusiasm for creepy, crawly things in your sleeping bag. If she is wild about symphony music, and you don't know an oboe from a pool cue, at least go uncomplaining to the concert. You can have a quiet snooze — and who knows? you might even get to like Beethoven!"