

'Weekend in the Country' Turns into Retreat

By John Dash

For the Ernst-Beauchamp family, a weekend reunion turned into a retreat this Summer — so successful a one that family members are already planning to do the same thing next year.

According to Theresa Ernst, this unusual turn of events started last March. "My brother Evan (Beauchamp), who is a volunteer in community at Covenant House in New York, suggested we have an Inner Healing weekend retreat for our family. There are seven women and four men in the Beauchamp family, and many grandchildren — most

of us living in the Rochester area.

"Evan had attended an Inner Healing retreat at Covenant House, and he thought it would be good for our family, so we proceeded to make plans.

"My niece Dianne and her husband John (Vallimont) who live in the country wanted to have it at their home. So we had the desire, the place and the time, all we had to do was cooperate."

Because she is a member of Good Shepherd's charismatic prayer group, Mrs. Ernst knew Barbara D'Ortenzio, coordinator of healing ministry for the Catholic

Charismatic Renewal in the diocese. She asked Ms. D'Ortenzio to lead the family on such a retreat. "She was anxious to do it as she never knew of any family doing a retreat together," Mrs. Ernst said.

As the word spread, Father Robert Werth, pastor of St. Bridget's Church, said he wanted to be a part of the event, as did Father Andrew Beuchele from Covenant House.

"It was suggested we pray and fast and many people we didn't know were involved in praying for the success of the retreat.

"John and Dianne started

telling their friends and neighbors about it and they all wanted to take part and help in any way possible. One neighbor took the three children for the weekend, a neighbor who has 11 children of her own. Another neighbor also offered refrigerator space and food.

"John got busy and hooked up extra electrical outlets and lights in the barn so we could have the teachings there. And he set up a chapel, complete with banners and all, for Masses," Mrs. Ernst reported.

On June 20 she asked the 138 members of her family for definite commitments so

she would know how many were coming. "The response cards came in and we had only 10 of our family," she said.

"We were a bit sad, but knew the Lord was sending those He wanted there, so we opened the invitation to friends in our prayer groups. Eight others came, so we had 18 in all for the weekend," she said.

In addition, neighbors and children were present for the Sunday closing liturgy; and "Even the birds and animals were there with us to worship God. I'm not able to put into words all the things that happened, but it was won-

derful," she reported.

"We're a family that loves to get together and laugh," she said; but this particular reunion was special, "because we had invited Jesus to come with us for the weekend.

"He was there with us in the barn, in the tents, praying, eating, laughing, crying, healing.

"The Lord has blessed us abundantly in many ways," she said.

Mrs. Ernst is organizing a second family retreat for the second weekend in July 1984. Its theme will be "Called to Discipleship."

Liturgy Office Planning Workshops

The diocesan Office of Liturgy is planning workshops for those involved in planning music, environment and art, and seasonal details for the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season.

The workshops, "SIGHTS AND SOUNDS: Advent-Christmas-Epiphany," will be offered in an expanded format this year. Participants will receive an in-depth presentation on the season, time to explore the scriptures, and special interest sessions for music and the area of environment and art. Time also will be provided for parish groups to discuss their own plans.

The workshops will take place from 3 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, at St. Thomas More, Rochester, and from 3 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2, at St. Mary Church, Elmira. Registration is \$4 per person. Participants should bring their own lunches.

Further information is available from the Liturgy Office (716) 328-3210.

First Meeting Set for Church Musicians

Genesee Area Music Ministries will have its first meeting at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Church of the Assumption, 20 East Ave., Fairport. The association is being formed to promote liturgical music in the Christian assembly while offering support and encouragement to Church musicians.

An evening prayer will begin the program. The main focus will be a presentation, "Music Makers: Can We Be Spiritual People?," by Father Stephen Kraus, associate pastor of St. Anne. A brief business meeting is scheduled and will be followed by a social with music provided by the adult folk group from St. Joseph, Penfield.

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