

# Creative strategies sustain the romance of married life

By Edgar V. Barmann  
NC News Service

Some couples resort to unusual techniques to keep their marriages finely tuned.

Take, for example, Ray and Jean Noll of Petaluma, Calif., and Don and Rita Kainz of Rice, Minn.

The Nolls leave their three children at home and take a mini-vacation every six months to take stock of their marriage.

The Kainzs write letters to each other every evening, and their commentary serves as a springboard to a 10-minute sharing of their thoughts and feelings.

In both cases, the couples believe they have discovered a formula for marital success which they highly recommend to others.

The Nolls' daily schedule is particularly hectic. Noll, a permanent deacon, is director of pastoral studies at the University of San Francisco, and over the past decade he and his wife have authored books on theology and religious education, taught classes together at the graduate level, and conducted retreats and workshops throughout the country.

On their get-away weekends — spent

often at a hotel just a few miles from their home — "We take a break from family living, try to evaluate the previous six months and set goals for the next six months," Noll said. "We plan our work so we can work our plan. We pray together, something we don't ordinarily do at home, and we talk."

Mrs. Noll said a get-away doesn't have to be expensive. She and her husband look for package deals for room, dining and entertainment which many hotels offer at bargain prices on weekends.

The Nolls have been married for 10 years and have three children. They leave the children with relatives or a baby sitter.

In Rice, Minn., Don and Rita Kainz, married in 1962, write letters to each other daily, following a pattern recommended at the Marriage Encounter weekend they made nine years ago. They believe the communication technique has "strengthened our marriage and made us whole persons," Kainz said.

Kainz is a partner in a commercial building contractor business, where

Continued on Page 15A



## Encounter

Continued from Page 4A

and Spanish-speaking couples in the United States.

An American missionary priest from Mexico and a Mexican couple conducted the first Encounter in English at the close of a Christian Family Movement convention at the University of Notre Dame in 1967.

With Christian Family Movement support, 50 Spanish couples and 29 priests came to the United States the following year and began presenting weekends in English.

Within a year, American priests and couples took over the presentation task, and despite the split within its ranks Marriage Encounter has grown spectacularly.

The division in ranks occurred in the early 1970s and was spawned by a disagreement over Marriage Encounter's presentation and purpose.

Jesuit Father Charles Gallagher of New York adapted Father Calvo's weekend format and started what is known as Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

The National Marriage Encounter follows Father Calvo's original manual.

Father Calvo, who now lives in Washington, D.C., calls the split a "radical separation and divorce" which threatens the survival of Marriage Encounter itself.

In a statement on the 25th anniversary of the movement in the United States, he urged all Marriage Encounter expressions to get together and experience "a unity in variety."

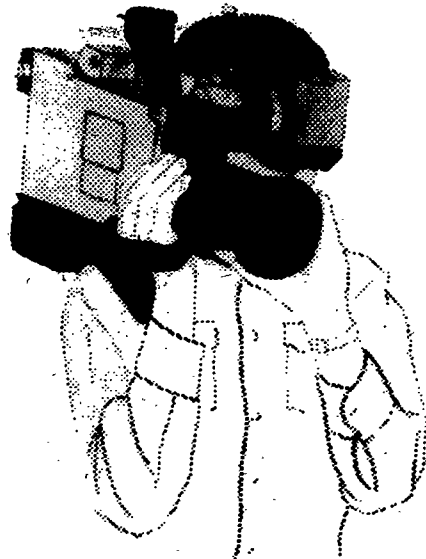
Whatever their disagreements, both the Worldwide and National organizations have helped countless married couples.

Some dioceses sponsor or endorse one of the organizations exclusively, while other dioceses endorse both or express no preference.

More information on Marriage Encounter may be obtained through diocesan Marriage or Family Life departments.



## EASTERN VIDEO PRODUCTIONS, INC.



- Professional Video Production/ Post-Production
- Professional Editing System
- Special Effect/Title Generators
- Single or Multiple Camera Set-ups
- Fully Insured
- 3/4" Broadcast Available

Call (716) 381-6350

We Invite Comparison

1997 Penfield Rd., Penfield, NY 14526 • Near Rt. 250 & Rt. 441 • Appointments preferred

## Let us "STAGE" your CELEBRATION

Disc Jockeys  
that  
ENTERTAIN



STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

We make  
your party  
come to LIFE!

716-247-1561