

Sociologists

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ly. If they live up to past practice, they will keep the car for many years. They drove one auto 85,000 miles in seven years before giving it away to a needy Franciscan priest, and they traded another car when the odometer hit 98,000 miles. Because of their savings habit, they were able to pay two-thirds of the purchase price of their new car in cash.

—Home care and maintenance: Jim does all the odd jobs possible, including lawn care, snow removal and wall papering. They share many household chores.

—Budget: For the first year or two of their marriage, Rita listed expenditures in a notebook, but discontinued the practice as too cumbersome. Now they exercise control primarily by keeping an eye on the fluctuations of their savings and checking accounts, taking pains not to exceed their income.

—Eating out: They take the children to fast food restaurants only occasional-

ly. Instead, Rita may treat the family to a special feast at home which she prepares.

—Vacations: Since their marriage, they have taken no vacation trips, except to visit their parents in Ohio. Neither frets over spending time off at home.

—Working mothers: For nearly 15 years of marriage, Rita stayed at home with the children. Because they consider a Catholic education for their children a necessity, rather than an option, Rita took a part-time job in 1986 to pay their tuition (currently \$3,800 a year for four). They believe mothers should not work outside the home if the acquisition of luxuries is their motive.

—Shopping: Both are alert to sales, and they shop accordingly. In buying groceries, they patronize two supermarkets to take advantage of weekly specials. Rita has bought furniture and clothing at rummage sales, and said that when family or friends offer them hand-me-down children's clothes, she is delighted.

The Supers trace their disdain of luxury to their middle-class upbringing,

and said they don't feel at all deprived because such expensive items as prepared frozen food are never on their menu, or because they choose to eat on an old kitchen table.

Their satisfaction with simplicity, the

ability to communicate their thoughts, and their Christian values all have influenced their lifestyle. For them, the formula works. In bad times and good, they have never had a serious argument over money.

Dominicans sponsoring Marian Year lecture series

A series of lectures in honor of the Marian Year are currently begin conducted by the nuns of the Dominican Monastery, 1310 West Church St., Elmira. The lectures begin at 7 p.m. in the monastery chapel and conclude with coffee hour hosted by the Dominican laity.

Dates and topics for upcoming lectures are: "Contemporary Emphasis at Vatican II and Subsequent Development" on February 23; "The Question of Apparitions and Private Devotions" on March 8; and

"Mary in the Life of the Community and the Individual Believer: The Witness of Scripture and the Tradition" on March 22.

The presenter for the series is Father Bernard Confer, OP, a Dominican from Buffalo. He received his licentiate in theology from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and has since done extensive study in Marian theology at the International Marian Library at the University of Dayton.

Strategies

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Mrs. Kainz works part-time.

"It is so easy to get caught up in jobs to be done," Kainz said. "This daily dialog has made our lives a lot more exciting."

In their letters, the Kainzs each fill about a page in a notebook, telling each other "what's happening," baring their "feelings, emotional needs, and commenting on behavior and events in our lives."

Afterward, they discuss what seem to be the important points, attempting to be sensitive and responsive to each other. The process takes about 20

minutes.

The couple has privacy for their discussion — their four adult children are no longer at home.

"This is a wonderful way to keep in touch with each other's feelings," Mrs. Kainz said. "We have gotten to know one another better. Our level of communication is not something that happened all of a sudden. It's a lifetime process. If you forget to communicate, problems begin to mount, fester and explode."

The couple has innumerable notebooks filled with personal revelations which have deepened their friendship and brought them closer together. And they hope that other husbands and wives will adopt the letter-writing habit.

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