

Matters matrimonial

This week's issue presents a look at topics related to marriage and family life. The special section begins on Page 18.

Dating dilemma

During a recent festival, Aquinas drama students compared their dating experiences to those enacted in their award-winning play. Page 18

Plan proponents

Advocates of Natural Family Planning seek to counter myths linking NFP to the rhythm method of birth regulation. Page 19

Preparation program

Finances, communication and family backgrounds are primary concerns raised in diocesan marriage preparation programs. Page 20

Exciting encounter

A Penfield couple hopes to convey the excitement marriage can bring to those who participate in Engaged Encounter weekends. Page 21

Courageous couple

The war in the Persian Gulf has added extra urgency to the marriage planning for a Rochester woman whose fiancé is serving at Pearl Harbor. Page 24

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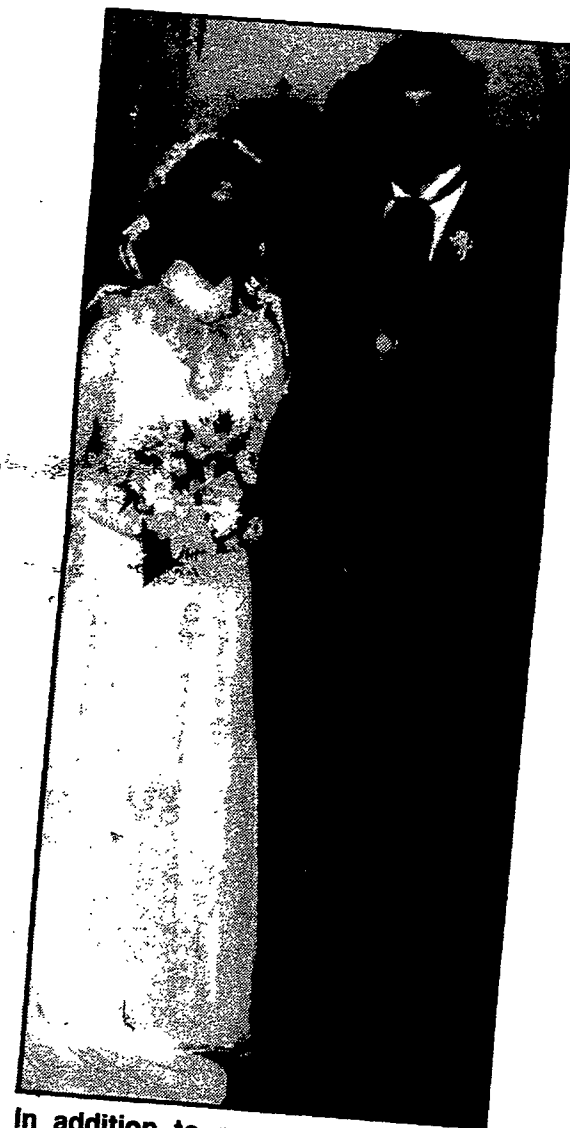
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Jean and Leo Vetter were married by Father Paul J. Cuddy at St. John the Evangelist Church in Clyde on Aug. 27, 1960.



The Kuryckis believe that if people are determined to stay together they should make the best of what that have.



In addition to recently celebrating their seven-year anniversary, Dan and Clare Schreiber are expecting their third child.

Faith in marriage bolsters life together

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

When Mary Rita Kurycki was a student at Our Lady of Mercy High School, she found it hard to believe a story told to her by one of the sisters.

The sister was talking about a friend who had been happily married for many years, and professed that she loved her husband more every day.

"I couldn't imagine what she was talking about," recalled the former Mary Rita Kiereck. "I couldn't think of a point beyond falling in love and getting married. I just thought you fell in love and life goes on."

But after what she called 17 "wonderful years" with her husband Bob, Mary Rita remarked, "Now I know what she meant."

The Kuryckis, who have had four children and experienced several lifestyle changes, admit that marriage is hard work, but is not without its rewards.

And so it has been since the beginning of time. Even the first couple, Adam and Eve, had to survive the hardships of life outside of a Garden of Eden. But through their shared life together, they began the family of man.

Throughout history, marriage has been the cornerstone of life. From Abraham and Sarah to modern-day couples, men and women have felt the need to love and be loved, and to secure that bond with vows of marriage.

Matrimonial customs have changed throughout the ages, and from culture to culture. In primitive times — and to this very day in some cultures — arranged marriages were the norm. But as educational opportunities, individualism and geographic mobility increased, society gravitated toward mutual free choice — based on love and romantic attraction — as the reason for taking a spouse.

Along with freedom, however, comes its consequences. The freedom to choose a partner can result in the wrong choice, for example. Today, in fact, nearly half of marriages end in divorce.

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Newlyweds Bob and Mary Rita Kurycki posed with Bob's parents, Barney and Stephanie Kurycki, back on the big day — Sept. 29, 1973.