

# Meet story-artist, Susan O'Halloran

From time to time, *Family Matters* has profiled persons who have services to offer to parishes and other agencies of the Archdiocese. We would like you to meet Evanston resident Susan O'Halloran.

Susan O'Halloran is a story-artist who presents programs about marriage, family, and service to the larger community. Humorous, inspirational, and practical, parishes have used these programs for meetings, workshops, or entertaining nights out.

"People can relate to stories," says O'Halloran. "When couples

listen to fables, it's those characters, out there, who are having and solving problems. Couples go home from workshops or performances with an easier way to talk about the issues in their lives. When I tell autobiographical stories such as my 'Growing up in Chicago anecdotes,' the performances are like sit-down comedy. The tales get you laughing about things you never thought you'd laugh at. You get a new perspective on life."

O'Halloran is a columnist for *Marriage* magazine, an author of several books for adults and children, and has participated in

the production of an award winning film.

O'Halloran adds, "Parishes who provide what I call 'edutainment' for parents and children send a message that they value their families. Stories provide 'Ha-ha' laughter and 'Aha' insight. There's a reason Jesus taught in parables. We tell our children learning is fun and interesting: Why not the same for adults?"

For more information, or to contact Susan O'Halloran, please call the Family Ministries Office at (312)751-8351.



*Susan O'Halloran hopes that couples get a new perspective on life after listening to some of her anecdotes.*

## INFPA hosts annual conference

The Illinois Natural Family Planning Association held its annual conference earlier this year at Divine Word International in Techny, Illinois. The conference was primarily attended by NFP instructors and users from around the state. One of the conference highlights was Mrs. Marilyn Shannon, author of *Fertility, Cycles and Nutrition*. She spoke on nutrition's value and effects on fertility, especially for couples who experience low fertility.

Natural Family classes that are offered in the archdiocese are for couples who are looking to achieve pregnancy as well as those who are planning to avoid pregnancy. If you have been planning for a

## Domestic violence resource available

The Purple Ribbon Campaign is an initiative of the Parish Social Ministry Consultation Services of Catholic Charities. The staff of PSMCS has published the "Purple Ribbon Campaign Handbook," a compilation of materials relating to domestic violence. The handbook is intended for use in parishes and schools and by indi-

ness of and sensitivity to domestic violence;

- Master sheets for making the cards on which the purple ribbons for the October campaign can be distributed;
- Resource and speaker lists;
- A list of assistance agencies in Cook and Lake counties.