

### Diocese Children's Homes Consolidated

(Continued from Page 1)

tracts on March 21, 1941, work has gone steadily along to provide the new homes for 100 boys and girls now being cared for at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's.

St. Joseph's Villa, Monty street-

The Original



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### St. Bonaventure's To Honor Three At Commencement

**ST. BONAVENTURE** — Plans for commencement exercises at St. Bonaventure College on Sunday, May 21, which will include the award of honorary degrees to three

of the college, consists of two typical degrees, two honorary degrees and a doctoral dissertation. It is held out as a distinguished sign of honor of an honor bestowed by the Diocese of Rochester. The last comprising the Clerk Estate was decided by the Diocese over to St. Mary's home at Feb. 21, 1941.

Within easy access of the college home is a combination heating and administrative unit for the Sisters of St. Joseph who will staff the buildings. There is a converted barn on the property for indoor play and sports grounds for winter and summer recreational activities.

The living room in each of the houses runs the entire width of the house and has triple windows providing abundant light. Each house has a large washable fireplace, modern kitchen equipment of the type found in a normal home. The latter will be used for training domestic glasses.

A half-way station between kitchen and dining room, in which is located the dish-washing machines, has been introduced in the boys' cottages.

Lavatory facilities are conveniently located on both floors; those on the second floor are easily accessible to all bedrooms. The equivalent of a master bedroom provides accommodations for separate dressers, clothes closets and beds for four children. Similar appointments for two and three children are provided in the five remaining bedrooms.

The two Sisters assigned to each house have rooms with connecting bath; a housekeeper makes up the complement of the household.

**Religious Services**  
Religious exercises will be conducted for the children in the nearby Parish Church of St. Charles Borromeo of which the Rev. Robert A. Kehler is pastor.

Each house will have a distinctive name. The village itself is named after St. Joseph perpetuating the name of one of the homes consolidated. The cottage homes will be named St. Mary's and St. Patrick's carrying along the names of the other two homes consolidated; St. James after His Excellency, Bishop Kearney; St. Agnes after the late Reverend Mother Agnes so closely affiliated with the work for dependent children for so many years; and St. Bernard's after the late Bishop McQuaid whose work also for the children was so outstanding in his episcopal reign.

A building of the future will be named St. Thomas, after the late Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey. The five auxiliary organizations will be identified with the new institution. They are: Ladies' Auxiliary, St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum,

and St. Mary's. The latter was announced by the Very Rev. Thomas Flanagan, O.S.M., president.

Speakers will include the Rev. John F. Haldeman, S.J., a St. Bonaventure alumnus who is now pastor of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception, N. J. The Rev. Father Haldeman will give the invocation at the graduation mass, which will be held beginning at 10:30 a. m. in Butler Gymnasium.

Also slated to receive an honorary degree is Major General James A. Oke, Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. He will make the Baccalaureate address to the senior class of St. of which he will receive reserve commissions in the Army Field Artillery.

Don McNeil, well-known Mus Network announcer and master of ceremonies of the daily Breakfast Club program will be the speaker at the Commencement program to be held at noon in Alexander Hickey Memorial Dining Hall, following which the concluding exercises will be held in the gymnasium.

Mrs. Charles Gerstner, president; St. Mary's Junior League, Miss Grace Keenan, president; St. Agnes Guild, Mrs. M. Dancy, president; Margaret Dunford Guild, Miss Bertha Quigley, president, and Loretto Circle, Mrs. Thomas J. Costigan, president.

Actual start of negotiations for the consolidation of the three homes for dependent children was recorded in a letter of Oct. 15, 1937, signed by the Rev. Frederick Neave, C.S.B., then president of the St. Joseph's Orphan Society and sent to the Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, Director, Rochester Catholic Charities.

The letter stated: "Reverend and Dear Father: "At a special meeting of the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum Society, held Thursday evening, Oct. 14, 1937, all the members of the Executive Board expressed their decision to go on record as most willing to cooperate with the Catholic Charities of Rochester in merging and reorganizing our Catholic Orphanages."

Members of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum Society who carried out the negotiations are: the Rev. Stephen W. Aulbach, C.S.B., Henry M. Berman, Charles M. Gerstner, Fred J. Halper, Gustave G. Klotz, Frank X. Gessa, William J. Moisensthal and William J. Hauser.

On Jan. 13, 1938, the Boards of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Homes passed a resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee to look into the possibility of establishing the Cottage Plan facilities. The committee was empowered to consult with the trustees of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum and to take all legal steps necessary to the bringing about of a consolidation of the three institutions.

Negotiations began in January of 1939 between St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Homes with the University of Rochester for the sale to the university of the property running from West Main St. along Genesee St. to Clifton St.

In December, 1938, the Boards of the three institutions informed the Rochester Community Chest of the proposed merger and of the construction of the new home on the Dewey Ave. tract. Approval of the plan by the Rochester Community Chest was received on Mar. 1, 1940.

Property of the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Homes was sold to the University of Rochester on May 16, 1940.

**Marked Transition**  
When the children are moved into the new home after graduation at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's it will mark the transition of dependent child care from the orphan home to the modern cottage plan. It will conclude a magnificent record of 247 years of service by the three homes consolidated. St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, conducted under the care of the Sisters of Notre Dame, had its origin in 1693. St. Mary's original home for boys was opened on Nov. 1, 1884. The St. Patrick's Girls Orphan Asylum was organized in 1835. The Sisters of St. Joseph who will conduct the new home had charge of the latter two institutions.

A formal opening of St. Joseph's Villa is planned for about the time the children are moved in June this year.

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