

Diocese Children's Homes Consolidated

(Continued from Page 1)

tracts on March 31, 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, ideally situated for the purpose, consists of five typical English, two-story, brick and shingled structures. It is laid out on a landscaped rise of tract of 44 acres acquired by the Diocese of Rochester. The land comprising the Clark Estate was deeded by the Diocese over to St. Mary's home on Feb. 26, 1941.

Within easy access of the cottage homes is a combination housing 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 ample grounds for winter and summer recreational activities.

The living room in each of the homes runs the entire width of the house and has triple windows providing adequate light. Each home has a large wash basin, modern kitchen equipment of the type found in a normal home. The latter will be used for training domestic classes.

A half-way station between kitchen and dining room, in which is located the dish-washing machine, 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 home have rooms with connecting bath; a housekeeper makes up the complement of the household.

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

Each home 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 for His Excellency, Bishop Keleher; St. Agnes after the late Reverend Mother Agnes so closely affiliated with the work for dependent children for so many years, and St. Bernard 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,

St. Bonaventure's To Honor Three At Commencement

ST. BONAVENTURE — Plans for commencement exercises of St. Bonaventure College on Sunday, May 31, which will include the award of honorary degrees to three

men prominent in the clergy, the Army and navy, were announced by the Very Rev. Thomas Flanagan, C.F.M., president.

Speakers will include the Rev. John F. Sullivan, S.A. M., a St. Bonaventure alumnus who is now pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Lakewood, N. J. The Rev. Father Sullivan will give the address 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. Uta, Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. He will make the Distinguished Soldiers' address in the main hall of St. of which he will receive his commission in the Army and ARMY.

Don McNeil, well-known New York Network announcer and master of ceremonies of the daily Breakfast Club program will be the speaker at the Commencement Banquet to be held at noon in Alexander Hibsey 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 Kocum, president; St. Aloysius Guild, Mrs. M. Dancy, president; Margaret Desiderio, Guild, Miss Bertha Quigley, president, and Loretta Circle, Mrs. Thomas J. Cashman, president.

Negotiations began actual start of negotiations for the consolidation of the three homes for dependent children was recorded in a letter of Dec. 1, 1937, signed by the Rev. Fred J. Mastvogel, C.S.B., then president of the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum and sent to the Rev. Paul C. Lambert, pastor, St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

The letter stated: "Reverend and dear Father: I am 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 desire 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. Aurbach, C.S.B., Henry J. Stemann, Charles M. Garzanti, Fred J. Hafner, Gustave G. Klotsch, Frank X. Gore, William J. Mulvaney and William J. Hauser.

On Jan. 13, 1938, the Boards of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's passed a resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee to look into the possibility of establishing the Cottage Plan institution. The committee was authorized 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, 1939, 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.

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 1845. St. Mary's original home for boys was opened on Nov. 1, 1864. The St. Patrick's Girls' Orphan Asylum was organized in 1886. 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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