

Magazine Focuses National Spotlight on Child Home

(Because of national attention drawn to Rochester's St. Joseph's Villa, a formal institution for child care, "Church Property Administration" national publication, requested and printed the article here by Father Lambert.)

By REV. GERALD C. LAMBERT, Director of Catholic Charities

The need for a home of the modern cottage type for dependent children became evident as early as 1924, when the Rochester Catholic Charities was using three homes, as well as an extensive foster home program for the care of the dependent children.

These three homes, St. Patrick's Home, St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum and St. Mary's Home had their beginning in the 19th century, one opening in 1836 and the other two in the 1850's. They had a total capacity of 450 children.

The foster home program had developed to such an extent that the majority of dependent children could now be cared for in private homes. With this shift to foster home care it became evident that a reduction in the facilities for institutional care was imperative.

Planned in 1924, negotiations for the consolidation of the three homes go back to Oct. 7, 1937, when the diocesan director of the Rochester Catholic Charities met with the board of directors of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum to discuss recommendations made by the Rochester Community Chest.

These recommendations were made following a study of the child-care services of Rochester by Paul T. Belcher and advised the closing of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum with the eventual consolidation of the three homes into the type of institution now provided in St. Joseph's Villa.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D.D., gave the new project his wholehearted approval after his installation as Ordinary of the Rochester Diocese in November, 1937. In the same month of that year, the purchase of the Clark Farm, an 80-acre estate located just outside the City of Rochester, was negotiated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William H. Hart, Vicar General of the Diocese.

A joint meeting of the boards of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Homes, of which the bishop was president, was called on Jan. 13, 1938. This meeting appointed a committee which was empowered to consult with the trustees of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum and to take all steps necessary to bring about a consolidation of the three homes and the construction of the villa.

This consolidation was four years in coming, due to the fact that property and holdings of the three institutions had to be liquidated and resources pooled for the new project. This was finally accomplished in May of 1942, in the meantime St. Joseph's was closed and its children transferred to the other two homes.

Work was also begun on plans for the new institution. The firm of Frank M. Quinlan was engaged as architect. Harold C. Ahnfeldt of this firm was assigned to work with the author in the development of plans for the cottages.

Careful study was given to several cottage-type homes in operation and Pamphlet No. 170 of the United States Children's Bureau, entitled "Handbook for Use of Boards of Directors, Superintendents, and Staffs of Institutions for Dependent Children" was carefully followed in working out the details of the cottage plans.

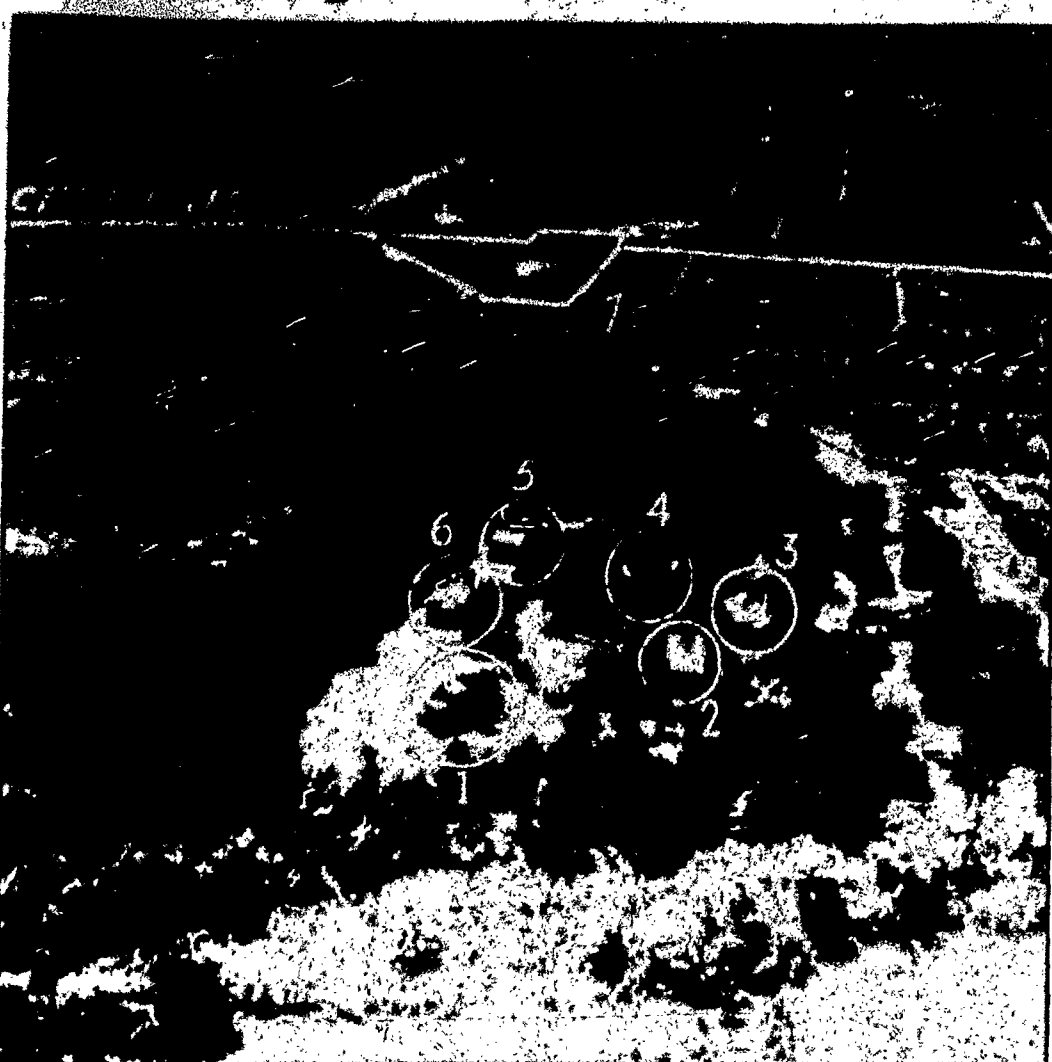
Work started in 1941. Contracts for the new villa were let on Mar. 31, 1941, and the work progressed steadily until completion in February of the following year.

The children were moved from St. Mary's and St. Patrick's to house provide ample storage space. The extensive grounds contain hills and valleys, woods and streams for all types of summer and winter sports.

Each of the new cottages is designed as a distinctive unit to provide as much as possible for a real home atmosphere. The living room, dining room and kitchen are identical to what will be found in the large modern home. A half-way station between the kitchen and dining room provides a dishwashing equipment for the boys' cottages.

All bedrooms are located on the second floor. 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

St. Joseph's Villa Seen From Air



An overall view of the modern dependent children's home of Rochester Diocese spotlighted in a national magazine shows 1) Administration building; 2) St. Mary's Cottage; 3) St. Patrick's Cottage; 4) St. Bernard's Cottage; and 7) St. Charles Borromeo Church where children attend Sunday Mass. Proximity of cottages to church and administrative buildings is shown.

Junior League To Conduct Sale

A rummage sale sponsored by St. Mary's Junior League will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23 and Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 636 Main Street East. Proceeds will be used for the Christmas Party Fund for the boys of St. Joseph's Villa.

Mrs. Aller Major has been appointed chairman of this affair. Assisting on the committee will be Mrs. Charles Gertner, Mrs. Harry Mac, Mrs. Leo Frayer, Mrs. John Helm, Mrs. Arthur Heberle, Mrs. Fred Lucks, Mrs. E. E. Thurston, Mrs. Henry Link, Mrs. Leonard Courrier, Mrs. George Klee, Mrs. John Blackwood, Mrs. Joseph Dalley, Mrs. Wm. McFall, Mrs. Raymond Turner, Mrs. Arthur J. Dalloy, Mrs. Lawrence Sanders, Mrs. Eugene Bopp, Mrs. Bryant Ford, Mrs. John Judge, Mrs. Mark Tushy, Mrs. Wm. Lutz, Mrs. Maurice Hyde, Mrs. Charles O'Leary, Mrs. Joseph Weber.

Irish to Help Nigerian Dublin (RNS) The Society of African Missions expects shortly to open a center in Cork for the training of Nigerian Catholic laymen.

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Devil Give No Reason For Arrest of Priest

COLUMBIA—(AP)—While reports of arrests of young and old in the Soviet zone and of their subsequent disappearance without any knowledge of their whereabouts by their families continue to be reported, the training of priests who have suffered the fate of the New York priest, Rev. Joseph Stankovicki, head of the Catholic Educational Association of Berlin, is being approved by the Soviet Secret Police and Christmas and later released. However, he has up to now refused an explanation for either the arrest or his release.

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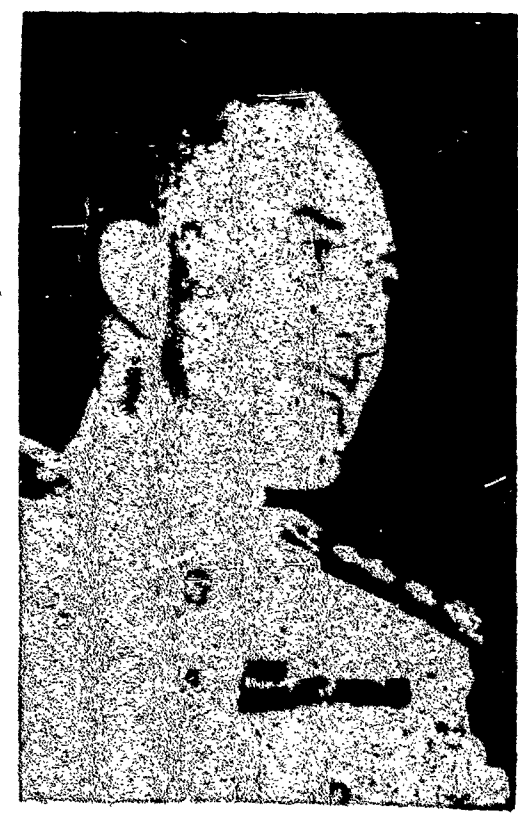


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