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Rochester Catholic Charities' Agency Authorized To Direct Important Work Of Child Adoptions

One of the important functions of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester is that of finding adoption homes for children who for one reason or another, are not being adequately cared for by their parents or families and whose parents or families have requested Charities' assistance to place their child in a Catholic family for adoption and have or are willing to surrender the child to the organization for the purpose of its adoption.

Catholic Charities provides these services through its newly named "Catholic Family Center" agency, which formerly was known as the Division of Family and Child Care.

'Authorized Agency'
The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester is known as an authorized agency that is an organization which has been granted a charter or has been incorporated under the laws of the State of New York which gives it the right to transact adoptions. Rochester Catholic Charities was incorporated in 1917. Since then over 200 children have been adopted through the agency. Each year more and more children are given the opportunity to live in a home where they can grow up in a wholesome Catholic atmosphere and more and more families are made happy by having the joy only a child can bring into their lives.

In order to protect families interested in adopting a child as well as to protect the child and offer both the best security certain standards must be respected. Adoption is a serious business and a lasting part as it stretches beyond the cradle into the years. Families interested in adopting a child are referred to Catholic Charities in many ways, sometimes it may be their pastor, doctor, lawyer, friends or other families who have adopted a child.

Regardless of the source of referral both the husband and wife are asked to come to the Agency together where their questions may be answered in regard to responsibility of adopting a child and their reason for wanting to adopt can be discussed. During this interview the couple is assured that they will get a normal child in mind and body that legally everything will be all right and that every effort will be made to see that the child placed with them will suit their type of family.

The basic eligibility qualifications for adopting a child are: that the husband and wife be practical Catholics, that they reside within the Diocese of Rochester and that they be under 40 years of age if they are interested in adopting a child under two years of age. Exceptions will be made for couples over 40 years of age



HAPPY MOTHER... Mrs. Warren Lynch smiles proudly with her four beautiful children, Michael, Mary, Timothy, and Patricia, all adopted through the Catholic Charities.

if they are willing to consider older children, that they be in good mental and physical health and that they are financially able to assume the responsibility of raising and educating a child.

Pastor's Recommendation
If at this time both the organization and the couple are satisfied the latter files an application for adoption of a child with the agency. The couple is then requested to see the pastor of the church where they attend and have him submit a letter of recommendation. If this letter is favorable, then three other references are sought along with that of the family physician and the employer. A medical report is requested from the family physician.

Following this a Catholic Charities representative visits the home in order to complete the study. The representative tries to determine the spiritual and emotional value of the

home, the couple's attitude toward religious training, the cultural and physical atmosphere of both home and neighborhood. A picture is drawn of the early life, education, social advantages, the employment of the adopting father and the developmental progress the couple has been able to make. Financial security must be established also. The organization does not look for wealthy homes but good stable Catholic homes where the income is consistent and the family can afford to share with the child.

The information obtained is held strictly confidential and is used only to satisfy the Board of Directors of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester as to the stability of the adoption. Two officers from the Board of Directors, the Vice President and Treasurer are the ones authorized to sign the necessary legal agreement or consent to the adoption. This information is also needed to meet the requirements of the Court where the petition for the adoption is presented.

When the above study is completed the adopting couple is notified as to its approval or disapproval. If it is approved, the organization makes every effort to place a child as soon as possible, but applicants must wait their turn, and they also have to wait until a child most suited to their home can be found.

Child's Background
When the agency has a child ready to place, the adopting couple is notified and an appointment is made for them to come to the office. The child's background, potentialities and health are discussed with them. The reason why he is for adoption is explained. They are told about his nationality, extraction, the education of his parents and relatives as far as can be determined, their habits, talents and skills. Possible difficulties facing the adopting parents are cited. The agency however, will not tell who the child's parents are, nor where they live. Neither will it tell the child's parents who the adoptive parents are or where they live.

The adoption worker will also give the birth history of the child and whether there were injuries or abnormalities at birth, the results of physical examinations of the child. All children placed for adoption are examined routinely by competent physicians and their hearts and lungs are examined. X-ray and fluoroscope are taken as well as blood tests.

Infants over six months of age are given a psychological study to determine their mental development. If an infant is placed in an adoption home under six months, this study

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