

Catholic Charities Authorized To Direct Child Adoption Work

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 may be done when he is six months of age or over if the adopting parents so desire. The agency will give the couple an idea of the child's personality and habits, the tests and immunizations he has had.

Adoption Procedure
 As a rule, before the child is placed in adoption, he has already been released or surrendered to the organization. This makes the organization the child's guardian. Adoptive parents do not adopt the child from its parents, but from the organization, and when a couple take a child into their home, they are expected to take the same responsibility toward him as if he were a natural child born to him. They are to be responsible for his health and bodily needs.

The social welfare law of the State requires that a child should be in the home of an adopting parent for a period of at least six months, before he can be legally adopted. The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester requires that he be in the home of his adopting parents for a period of one year. This gives the organization a greater span of time to observe the child's development as well as his care and to observe if the child has been adopted as a natural child and if the love and security have been established with the adopting parents.

These findings are presented to the Board of Directors and if approved, the adoptive par-

ents are notified to employ their attorney and that the Agency will send him the release or surrender along with the necessary data to start adoption proceedings. Consent to this adoption is signed by the Board of Directors of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester and the adoptive parents sign the agreement to the adoption.

Order of Adoption
 Following this at the request of the court, the agency submits a report to the court on its investigation of both the adoptive parents and the child. When the adoption is approved by the court, the adopting parents then receive a legal paper termed the "Order of Adoption." All other papers pertaining to this adoption are

sealed and filed as confidential records and nobody is allowed access to them except upon an order of a court showing good cause why they should be seen. Next a revised birth record through adoption is obtained by the attorney and submitted to the adopting parents. The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester then obtain a statement of baptism for the adopting parents to use at such time as when the child is admitted to Parochial School or when he is ready to receive his First Holy Communion.

Adoptive parents are strong advised to let a child know that he is adopted. If they do not, somehow or some day he will learn about it, so it is better if adoptive parents are the first to tell him be-

cause he loves and trusts them.
 From experience, Rochester Catholic Charities knows that great joy and happiness is established in adoption homes. The Charities has placed as many as four children for adoption in one home and the let-

ters lived from different adoptive parents throughout the year reveal the joy and happiness that can come to people whose hearts are big enough to take a child as their own. "He who gives a child a home is worth a place in Heaven's throne."

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