

Housing For Ten-Member Family Sought By Charities Agency



Seventy-three-year-old Grandmother Leminger holds Douglas Leminger, 3, one of her seven grandchildren in their three-room "home" in a brick building at 224 State St., Rochester, next to the railroad bridge, while Doug's mother and dad answer in an effort to find housing for their ten-member family group. Twice evicted from rented quarters, the Lemingers could

locate nothing better than the dilapidated State Street shelter, from which five of the seven children have been removed to homes of friends and foster homes. The "dwelling" is poorly heated, has cracked walls, no doors, broken windows, poor flooring and inadequate toilet facilities. Catholic Charities is seeking housing to bring the family together.

With five of a ten-member family group already placed in homes of friends and in foster homes, a harassed father last week appealed to the Catholic Family Center of the Catholic Charities of Rochester for any sort of housing that would reunite these "modern nomads."

Describing the "wretched conditions" of the three rooms in a dilapidated brick building in Rochester's State Street next to the railroad bridge, the Rev. Arthur E. Ratigan of Catholic Charities is making a plea through the Catholic Courier Journal "for some landlord—perhaps one with an unused summer home—to bring this family together."

LACKING PROPER heat, toilet facilities and refrigeration, the State Street "home" is all the family has been able to find. Inadequacies have brought infections to the small children, who have become frequent visitors at the Genesee Hospital Clinic.

Housing difficulties are not new to the Lemingers. Mr. and Mrs. Leminger, their seven children and 73-year-old Grandmother Leminger.

Their story is one of evictions, of illnesses, of travel. After five months' service in the Army in 1945 and an honorable discharge because of dependences, Anthony Leminger returned to his job as a route salesman in the Rochester area for a food distributing firm.

EVICTED TWICE from rented quarters, Leminger negotiated purchase of a dwelling through the GI Bill. Then came a job transfer to Texas. Forced to live in \$40-per-week rooms because of the housing lack there, the Lemingers traveled to California in search of housing. There again, however, they were unsuccessful. When Mrs. Anthony Leminger became ill, funds were depleted and the family was forced to return to Rochester.

Here again Anthony Leminger got a job, again with a food distributing firm. But the best they could obtain in the way of hous-

ing was the State Street building. Earning approximately \$50 weekly, Leminger is paying \$50 monthly for his present quarters. He said he is "becoming tired and discouraged" in trying to find housing to keep his family together.

FATHER RATIGAN, who personally investigated the case, pointed out that "it is not an isolated one." The Catholic Family Center, he said, has several similar cases where inadequate housing has resulted in the placement of children in foster homes. That the condition is nationwide is indicated in a preliminary report of the 1950 housing

census released by the Federal Housing and Home Financing Agency, which stated:

(1) Nearly two million dwellings are overcrowded; (2) Overcrowded conditions among non-whites have increased; (3) The number of persons in the typical household has declined since 1940; (4) The typical gross rent for non-whites has nearly doubled in the last ten years, while rents for white families are 55 per cent higher.

The agency noted "a considerable difference between the average size of homes occupied by owners and those occupied by tenants."

Win Mercy High Scholarships

Winners of scholarships to Our Lady of Mercy High School as a result of competitive examinations held last Saturday are announced by the Sisters of Mercy as follows:

Full tuition scholarship, Ann Klingler, St. Helen's School; Grace Edenhofer, St. Andrew's.

Alumnae Association full tuition scholarship, Dorothy Wadsworth, SS. Peter and Paul's School.

Partial two-year scholarships, Lorna Lyng, Sacred Heart Cathedral; and Gloria Eberhardt, St. Boniface.

Japanese Novices Sendai, Japan (INC)—Three Japanese novices of the community of the Christian Brothers have pronounced their first vows here. They are the first members of the community to complete their novitiate in Japan.

Pre-Marriage Series Ending Set Monday

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will attend the closing session in the series of Marriage Preparation Courses sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, and will bless the engagement rings of the young women, Monday in the Powers Hotel at 8:15 p.m.

Final speaker in the series will be Dr. Leo P. LaPalin who will discuss "The Mind and Marriage." This will conclude a series held for six Monday nights for the young people.

Marquette Graduates Rochester Student

Among the 81 seniors to be graduated from Marquette University's college of engineering in Milwaukee, Wis. at the close of the engineers' winter academic quarters is Thomas A. Connor, 208 Winbourne Road.

90 Business Firms Sign To Observe Good Friday

More than doubling the number of last year, ninety business establishments and commercial firms will close on Good Friday, at least from noon until 3 p.m., the Rochester Fourth Degree Assembly.

Knights of Columbus committee requesting the closing, said today. The movement begun last year when the Fourth Degree Knights received the assurance of nearly 40 firms that they would cooperate in a reverent observance of the day when Christ died on the Cross.

(List of Firms cooperating appears on Page 5-A)

With the encouragement of His Excellency Bishop Kearney, the Fourth Degree Assembly headed by Faithful Navigator Donald E. Woerner sent out appeals to close on the day or to close at least from 12 to 3.

The committee headed by Edwin G. Weiler and R. Francis Healey as co-chairmen will distribute posters to the firms co-operating. Printed in deep purple on white, the posters read: "Good Friday—to enable our employees to attend religious services we will be closed from noon to 3."

THE MORE reverent observance of Good Friday is being promoted by joint committees of Protestant and Roman Catholics across the country, a survey of the Religious News Service discloses.

3 Speakers At DCCW Meeting

Rita Trout, Joanne Schneider and Elaine Kolenick will speak at the monthly meeting of the Rochester Diocesan Council of Women, DCCW, Tuesday, March 20 at 8 p.m. in the Columbus Civic Center.

The Misses Schneider and Kolenick who are co-chairmen of the Diocesan Committee on Organization and Development will discuss the inspirational and actual elements of DCCW work. Rita Trout has chosen for her topic, "Catholic Action."

Reports will be presented by the Rev. John T. Callahan, diocesan spiritual moderator and by the Rev. Louis J. Mahoney, diocesan moderator.

Courier Journal

FRIDAY, MAR. 14, 1951

Bishop Kearney To Lead Holy Week Observances

Bishop Kearney will lead the Holy Week observances in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, beginning on Thursday, March 15, at 7 p.m. The observances will continue through Good Friday, March 17, at 3 p.m.

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