



OUR COVER PHOTO, "Adopted Family Greet the Bishop," was taken at the Chancery Office where His Excellency Bishop Kearney greeted Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Lynch and their five children all adopted through Rochester Catholic Charities. The children who enjoy life on their parents' farm in Hilton, N. Y., are: Front row (left to right), Michael, 13; Mary, 11; Patricia, 8; Timothy, 6, stands between his mother and the Bishop, Dennis, 17 months, is held in his father's arms. Mr. Lynch is the stereo-type foreman of the Gannett newspapers in Rochester.

Catholic Family Center Staff Directs Care Of Children In Foster Homes

One service, Catholic Family Center offers is the foster care program. In order to provide this, the agency has one caseworker on the staff assigned to this particular type of work.

"Why" foster children? The children are the innocent "by-standers" — the severest casualties — when a home is disrupted. Through no fault of their own, they are the targets on which the heaviest damage falls. A child loses his one source of security, of safety, when his home is threatened. Our aim is to lessen this hurt, this sense of loss, in securing for these children substitute, or foster, homes.

"Where" are the foster children? When a home breaks up, often it is the grandparents who can care for the children temporarily, if not permanently. Often it is an Aunt or an Uncle who is able to open their home. In emergencies it is sometimes a kind neighbor who can offer shelter temporarily.

Best Solution

When there is no one, what then? After years of experience the Catholic Family Center finds the foster home offers the best solution. These children must be protected in "their home away from home", therefore standards have been set up as a guide to determine the qualification and fitness of people to act in this capacity.

Many prospective foster parents ask, "Just what do you want in a foster home?" Our first thought is, of course, the religion in the home. As a Catholic agency, the Catholic Family Center places only Catholic children. It is essential these children be placed in homes with a religious atmosphere.

Another question often asked is "Can we adopt these children?" Children placed in foster homes on a boarding basis are children of broken homes and children with one or more interested parent or relative. Therefore the stay of these children in the foster home is variable, and there is rarely any thought of adoption for them.

Another question is often "What does it take to be good foster parents?" It requires above all people with great warmth and understanding; people with, not only love for a child, but with love for all children. It requires flexibility for coping with all types of children; it requires the ability to accept these foster children as part of the family group, giving warmth and affection and making the child feel wanted.

The Home Finder

In order to become active foster parents, the home must be



FOSTER HOME—Johna Regan (left) Catholic Family Center caseworker introduces young boy to foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sinko who welcome the youngster into their home. Securing foster homes for hundreds of children is one of the many important services of the Catholic Family Center.

approved and certified. This means that the home, after study, must meet not only the requirements of the State Board of Welfare, but also of the Catholic Family Center.

Prospective foster parents first make personal application to the agency. This can be done by telephone at which time a definite time is given for applicant to be seen in the office by the caseworker, or the Home Finder, as she is often called. A full interpretation is given at this time and the routine investigation of the home follows. This is not as formidable as it sounds — the physical surroundings of the home are checked, the sleeping arrangements, the neighborhood.

Briefly the requirements are: Foster parents to be of good moral character and of good reputation in the community; foster mothers cannot be over sixty years of age; there must be enough financial security in the home so that foster parents are not dependent for their own subsistence on the board paid for these children.

Foster children are allowed to share a bedroom, either with another foster child or foster parents' own child, but must

have separate beds. Children over the age of four of opposite sex cannot share a room.

Supervision

Foster children are supervised by a caseworker from the agency, and remain under supervision as long as they remain in foster care. Foster parents, the child's own parents, and the Catholic Family Center cooperate in providing the best type of care for individual children, working together for the welfare of the child.

The board rate for children over one year of age is \$11.00 a week — \$12.00 a week is paid for the care of the infants. In addition, the Catholic Family Center provides clothing, medical and dental care, and a certain amount of incidentals; i.e., haircuts once a month for the boys, school supplies, etc. Board is paid by the agency.

Foster parents have no financial dealings with the child's own parents. After a home is approved by the agency, a certificate is issued for one year. This is renewable at the end of the year without another full home study, unless conditions in the home make a re-investigation necessary.

Counseling Service Offered Individuals

Our era can be hard to take. Modern life often presents all manner of confusions and anxieties in those who must live and work amid the welter of pressure and progress we call the Twentieth Century.

There is bound to result within many people, varying degrees of emotional tensions and uneasiness due in some part to pressures within our complex society and in part to inner fear and insecurity. The net result seems to have added new weight to the word "problem."

Today, when we talk of problems, most often we seem to mean personal problems — those vexing situations which concern individuals in relation to their inner selves and their adjustments to society.

Catholic Family Center each year contacts large numbers of persons who are concerned chiefly with attempts to bring themselves into some measure of accord with conditions in the world about them. Often, these people have been trying to escape the harassments of reality through alcohol, perhaps or in some other type of behavior of an anti-social nature. These individuals, through counseling, need to be shown where the solutions they have chosen are wrong and will not work, will not solve their basic problems.

Personal Problems

Counseling the individual around his personal problem can be a slow and long process. Since the problem does not spring full grown into a person's life, getting at the roots of the difficulty is often not only slow but emotional and painful. This is usually accomplished, by regular interviews between the individual and the social worker over a given period of time.

The social worker is interested in knowing how a person views his problem, how he feels it developed and his opinions about how to solve his difficulty. From here both social worker and the individual try to objectively view some of the possible early roots of

the problem, some of the person's own history through which trends and tendencies can be frequently noted.

Getting this picture of the trouble is only possible, however, if the individual shows a desire to change his behavior pattern. It is this will to change that determines the success or the failure of the counseling progress.

Change of Pace

Frequently, in order to encourage a change of an individual's former pace, some change in living, working or school conditions are suggested by the social worker. This occurs when there is the possibility that such a change of environment will enhance the possibility for further more permanent, deep-seated change.

The tempo of attaining solution to an individual's problem varies from person to person. The reaction of each of us to given personal problems is based on each individual's personality values and outlook. Only insofar, however, as the person recognizes the fact that he has a problem, can he take steps to affect a change in his personal outlook. Very often long-time support by a social worker helps an individual maintain the courage of his convictions to change and to bring his behavior into harmony with reality.

'Red Feather'

Catholic agencies as well as all other agencies participating in Community Chests throughout the nation are called Red Feather agencies. The Red Feather was officially adopted as the symbol of the Chest in 1945.

Selection of the symbol was something of an accident. Back in 1938 some of the Chests found it too expensive to give a colorful button to a donor as an evidence of his donation. They hit upon the red feather.

The Rochester Community Chest adopted the Red Feather as a symbol 47 years later.

Catholic Charities Of The Diocese Of Rochester Financial Report

April 1, 1952 to March 31, 1953

	Expenditures	Receipts	Receipts
	1952-1953	other than Community Chest	Rochester Community Chest
Catholic Family Center	\$362,839.93	\$218,535.51	\$147,343.74
St. Ann's Home for the Aged	216,416.48	188,658.25	25,722.58
St. Elizabeth's Guild House	25,221.38	29,054.68	5,400.00
St. Joseph's Villa of Rochester	131,886.52	99,345.03	32,618.85
Charles Settlement House	22,359.51	2,300.00	20,391.30
Columbus Youth Association, Rochester	72,361.51	26,027.35	37,518.96
Columbus Youth Association, R. Roch.	16,972.78	1,871.00	18,018.50
Genesee Settlement House	29,741.07	2,734.00	20,226.71
TOTAL	\$878,220.16	\$569,597.05	\$313,340.10