

17 Years With Catholic Charities

William Nolan — 'Man Everybody Knows'

Mr. William T. Nolan is a genial, energetic man whose spirit, outlook and bearing give no hint that he is approaching his seventieth birthday. For thirty-seven years from June 15, 1917, he has been General Secretary of the Catholic Charities organization of the Rochester Diocese—but if you tell him that the floor plan of his career might well have been drawn to Good Samaritan specifications, he'd wave aside such a suggestion with the well-known Nolan vigor.

Nevertheless, when you work with him, know his tremendous integrity and observe his dedication to the problem of how best to improve and broaden Catholic humanitarian effort, you become convinced that Mr. Nolan is indeed a modern Good Samaritan whose path is not the hill country between Jerusalem and Jericho, but rather the paved environs in and about the Columbus Civic Center.

State Charter
General Secretary Nolan has been very much in the act right from the time the curtain went up on Diocesan attempts to centralize Catholic work with the poor and troubled through its 1917 State Charter. Even prior to this, however, Mr. Nolan had demonstrated his organizational skill in the Catholic Men's Charity League, a fundraising group of laymen which supported the Diocesan charitable efforts.

Before assuming his duties as full-time secretary to the Rochester Catholic Charities Aid Association, as it was first known, Mr. Nolan was employed in an auditing capacity at Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation—and the decision to leave the safe and the secure for the unknowns of organized charitable endeavor was not a simply reached de-

cision. But characteristic of the harmonious working together of industry and community welfare services which has always prevailed in our Diocese, he was told by his employers to try his new work, and to return to them if he felt the unique venture was not to his liking.

Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation lost Mr. Nolan rather permanently, except for the reason he feels for a company so sympathetic with a man's wish to serve his fellowman.

Thenceforward, although haltingly, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester has developed into a structure highly sensitive to human need, staffed increasingly by trained personnel, aware of trends and ever mindful that the aid and understanding individuals receive from any one of the agencies within the Catholic Charities set-up would have not been so completely possible without those early years so well survived by Mr. Nolan.

No review of Catholic Charities, no analysis of our General Secretary's record could be set down without a long look at the happy union of Rochester Catholic Charities and the Community Chest, established in 1918, has had Mr. Nolan with it from that time, in many capacities: he was at first office manager, during the early years, then for fifteen years successively, he was team member, team captain, Division Leader and is now Secretary to the Public Employees Division, a task which is months in the planning and preparation stages before ever a campaign is launched.

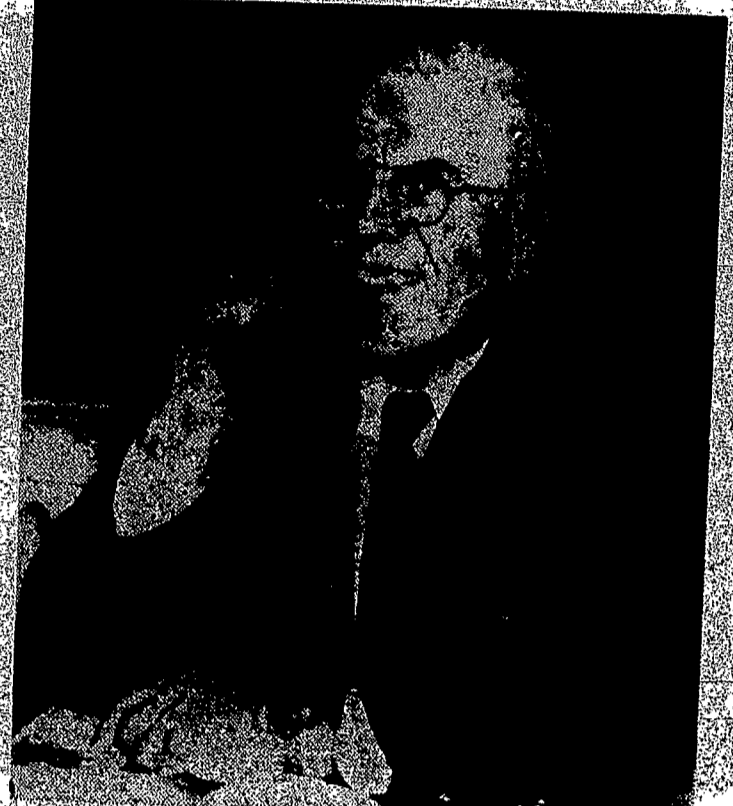
In addition to aiding in the Chest functioning, Mr. Nolan is the catalyst between the Community Chest and the entire Catholic Charities organization. He audits the annual budgets of the Catholic agencies within the Catholic Charities structure and attends the Chest Budget hearings where he must help interpret why Catholic Charities requires the amount of money it is requesting in order to carry on services to individuals and families. He has proven his worth many times over in this area, as well as being able to contribute much in terms of the inter-faith spirit of cooperation so necessary in a Community Chest structure.

Mr. Nolan has long had an interest in providing young people with wholesome recreation and he has been able, from 1931 onward, to act as the spearhead in our Catholic Youth Association movement which has given thousands of children and adolescents fine opportunities for receiving healthy recreation.

"Mr. C.Y.A."
Indeed, Mr. Nolan is "Mr. C.Y.A." for without his great talent for organizing and directing the fundraising campaign each autumn, C.Y.A. activity might be curtailed and the number of young people enjoying sports facilities much reduced.

Anyone who has ever been a team member on a C.Y.A. drive has realized the planning genius which such an effort involves. The success of the annual C.Y.A. drives, the cooperation and the whole total effort has been nurtured and tended by Mr. Nolan for twenty three years without benefit of applause—the satisfaction mostly stemming from the joyful screams of youngsters heard each afternoon in the C.Y.A. pool.

In the early years of Catholic Charities, the charter provided that Mr. Nolan be guardian to children for whom no provision had been made. Among his reminiscences he



CHARITIES SECRETARY — Mr. William Nolan is currently rounding out 37 years of continuous service as general secretary of the Rochester Catholic Charities. The genial "Bill," as his friends call him, joined Catholic Charities at its inception in 1917. A year later, in 1918, he aided in the establishment of the Rochester Community Chest.

can still recall names of many of those children, now grown and long since parents themselves, who were among the very first youngsters ever cared for by Catholic Charities.

Also, Mr. Nolan, accessible when needed, at whatever time, had many times to perform corporal works of mercy for those without family, for instance, for whom no Christian burial would have otherwise been possible. The problem of the homeless was his again in 1930 when he managed the bureau set up by the Department of Public Welfare for homeless men.

Today, one of Mr. Nolan's deepest concerns is the problem of the aged. It is impossible to estimate his contacts with aging persons or to give accurate reading of the num-

ber of aged he has directly helped. As he has observed the aging to be an ever increasing segment of our population, he is greatly interested in new ways of helping aging persons to a fuller latter days.

His philosophy in regard to this is interesting; Mr. Nolan points to his own strong constitution and the vigor he enjoys, but feels that because of this blessing he has a responsibility to help those who are less fortunate. He lives this daily; it is not a concept he talks about, but rather he actively applies Christian charity, particularly in the area of the aged and their problems.

Besides good health, Mr. Nolan has other blessings which he loves to count, namely, one son, Father William Nolan, Chaplain in the U. S. Navy, and one daughter, Mrs. Mary Nolan Sullivan, herself a former social worker, who is active in Catholic community endeavor.

It is difficult to capsule a full, satisfactory career in the field of social welfare into brief form. Human problems have a way of blending and merging, so that as the days and years stretch on into the decades, one can only look back at a kind of seamless web of service to fellowmen and conclude that perhaps one has done the best possible.

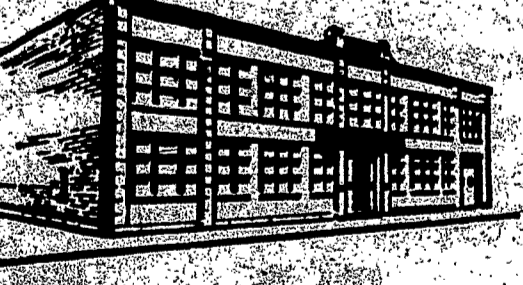
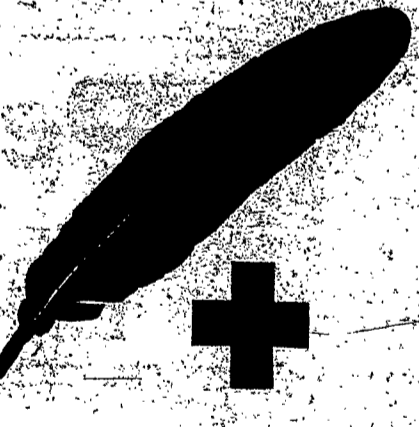
Answers Questions
It is hard to interpret what one does about and with other people's problems—when you ask Mr. Nolan all he says is, "I answer questions." It will remain for those around him to point up thirty seven years of pondering and searching for best ways to solve agencies' problems so that they can the better solve the individual's problems; it is up to those who know Mr. William Nolan well to show how deeply interested he has always been in community welfare services, concerned enough to give his fullest energy and dedication.

His coworkers may well say that here is a man who has lived in their highest meaning Christ's words, "The poor you have always with you."

CHARITY THINKS NO EVIL
Those who most readily attribute evil to others are generally themselves evil. A dishonest politician will invariably accuse all politicians of being dishonest; an unfaithful husband will accuse his wife of infidelity. Charity never judges the evil motive; never judge solely by external

GIVE TO BOTH —

THAT BOTH MAY GIVE FOR YOU



MARTIN G. MOLL, President

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