

Catholic Family Center Is Casework Agency

Catholic Family Center is a casework agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester serving Monroe County. As the name implies, it is a family centered agency having as its primary aim the preservation and strengthening of family life in order that the family may achieve the sublime objectives intended by the Creator.

But while Catholic Family Center is a family orientated agency, it is more than a family agency in the usual sense. As a family agency, the agency serves thousands of families each year providing marital counseling, counseling in regard to personal difficulties, budget counseling, counseling on parent-child relationships, service to unmarried mothers, service to the aged and chronically ill and counseling with individuals and families on all the various types of problems that people face today.

As a children's agency, Catholic Family Center provides care for hundreds of children away from their own home. Last year, for example, the agency cared for 553 children. As an adoption agency, Catholic Family Center studies hundreds of adoption applicants

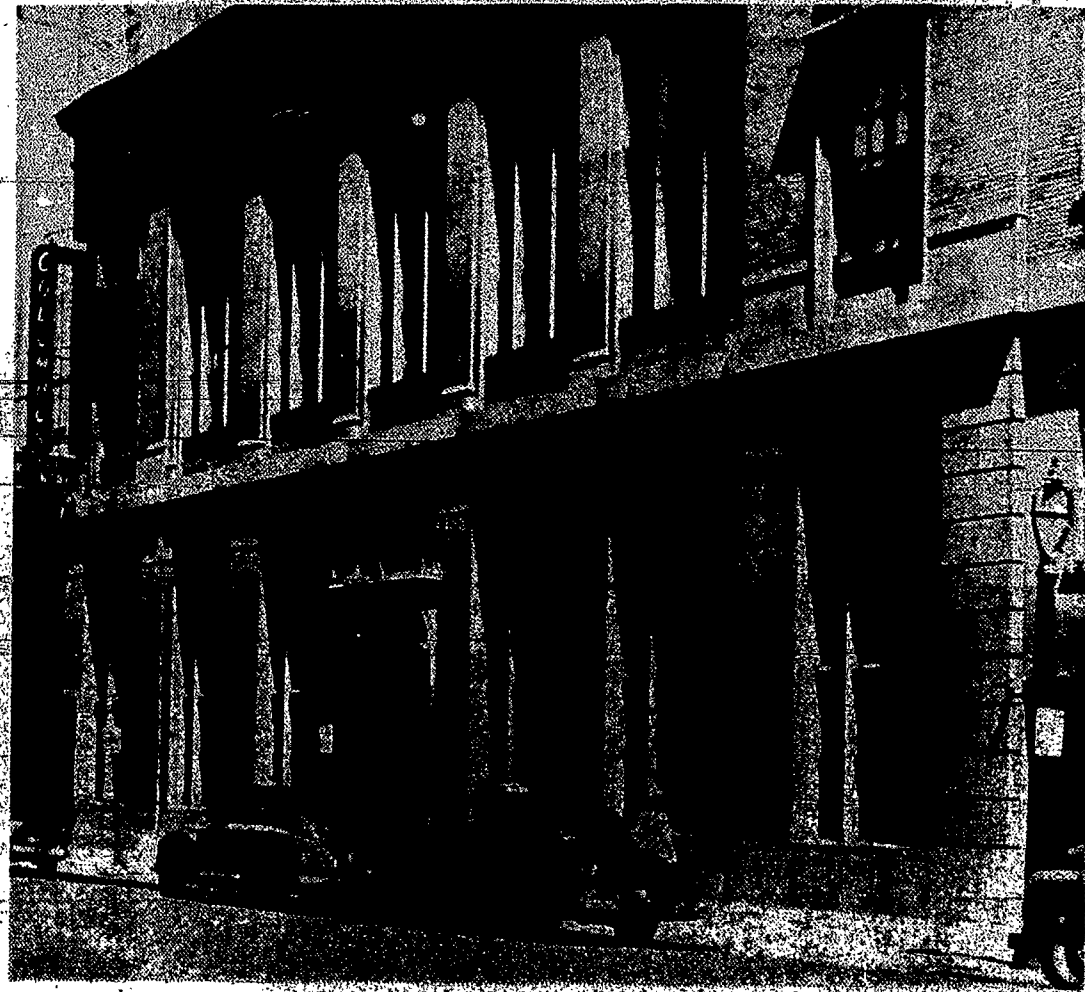
and last year had 119 children in adoption homes.

Catholic Family Center is what social workers call a multiple function agency. This means that a single agency provides the services which might ordinarily be provided by three or four specialized agencies.

Since Catholic Family is a religious agency motivated by the basic concepts of charity and following Catholic philosophy and principles, it is the agency which a major segment of the population of Monroe County looks to naturally for service.

Between April 1, 1954 and March 31, 1955, 2,415 different families sought and received the services of the agency. The people who come to the agency have the right to expect and demand competent skilled and professional help on a confidential basis. This the agency provides.

A highly skilled staff of professional caseworkers are equipped to help people with the problems they face in the complex society of today. Each year more and more people take advantage of the opportunity to use this skilled professional help.



DIOCESAN BUILDING—Here in this 15 story building on Chestnut Street the Diocesan Charities, the Catholic Family Center and the Catholic Youth Organization have their facilities and offices.



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Letters

Many of the couples who have adopted children through Catholic Family Center write back to the agency to let their caseworker know of the happiness the child had brought. Here are a few excerpts from the many letters received:

"We thought that you might like to see how John looks now that he is two years old. Needless to say, he is an adorable little boy. We are so thankful that we have him. Life is certainly much more exciting now. I just wonder how we ever got along without him."

"My husband and I wish to thank you for all that you did for us in regard to our adoption of Steve. Our deepest gratitude to you and to the CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER for your very efficient handling of our case. Steve is the king of our household and such an adorable one! It's so fascinating to watch his development; he carries on a long conversation that only he can understand, but we nod our heads and he seems satisfied."

"We both want to thank you for all you have done in helping us to get our two lovely babies. We are so very happy and thankful for both of them. We have pretty much decided to name the baby, Mary Elizabeth, after our mother. She certainly is a beautiful Marian Year baby."

"David is getting more beautiful with each passing day. He now weighs twenty pounds and has quite a few accomplishments. He does 'pat-a-cake' and also shakes hands. We bought him a new baby walker the other day, but we haven't tried to get him to walk in it. In fact, we didn't urge him on, but the moment we put him in it, he stood right up on his feet and pushed himself a few inches. However, he doesn't do it the conventional way; he pushes with his tummy instead of his feet, but he's so proud of himself, to think he can do it at all. It's so wonderful to watch him growing up, day by day. We love him so very, very much, and we're so proud of him. He's already brought us more happiness than we ever dreamed of."

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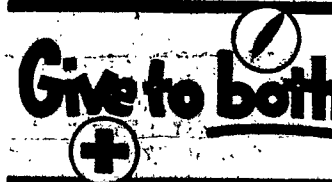
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