

Varied Program At Charles Settlement House

(A meditation of a worker at Charles Settlement House).

"Jesus, Lover of us,
"Jesus, Infinite Goodness,
"Jesus, most patient,
"Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine, pour forth into my heart the love of Thy Sacred Heart.

"From anger, hatred and all ill-will, deliver me, O Lord.

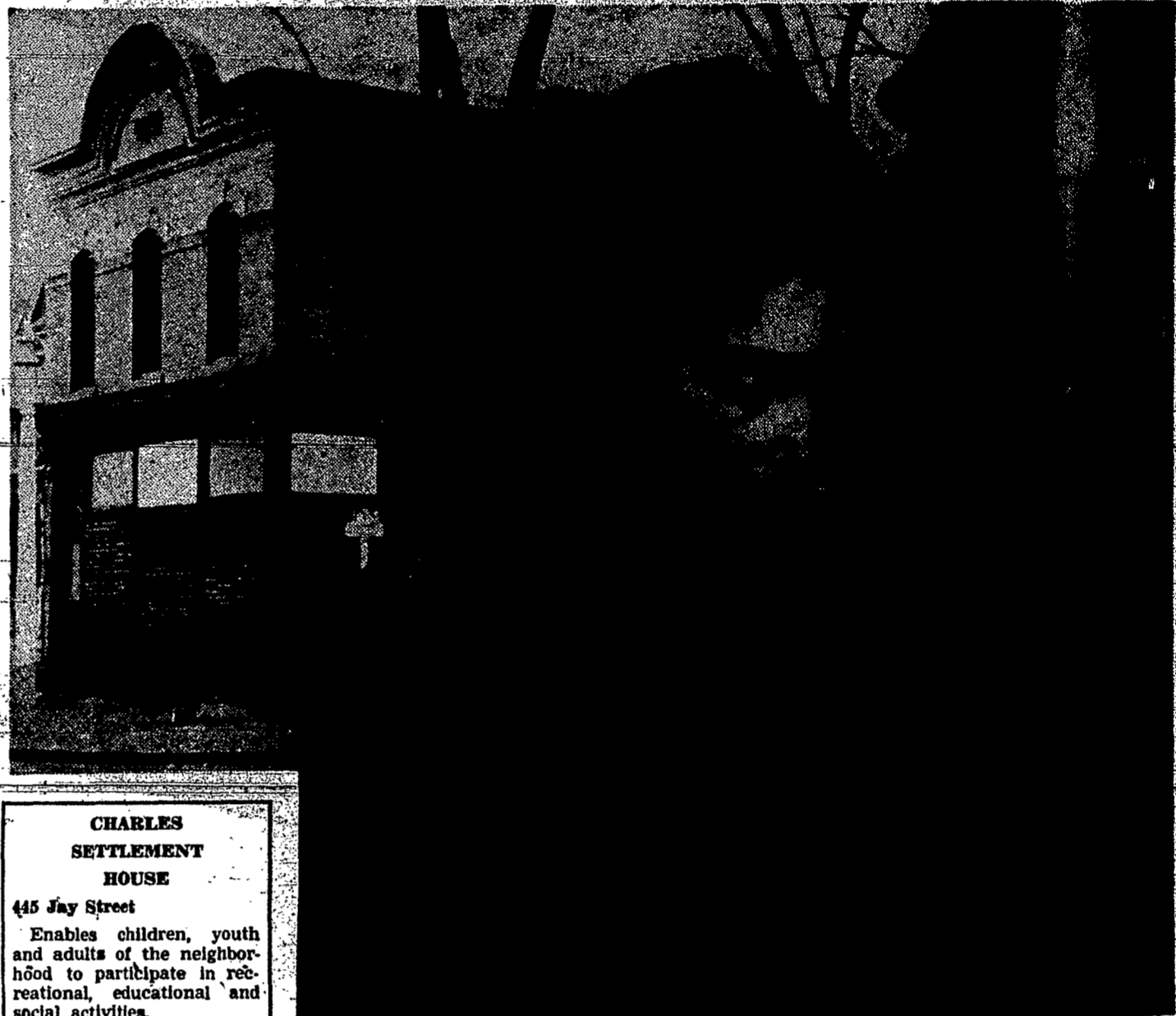
"Grant that every moment of this day, in all my dealings with others, I may keep in my mind your words: 'Whatever you do to one of them, you do it unto Me.' Grant that I may regulate all my dealings with others according to Your command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'"

It is easy, Lord, and pleasant, to greet the youngsters who burst into the Settlement when school is over, eager to show their report cards or to entrust to your care a precious Valentine made for mother until time to go home or perhaps to have you examine a scratch received the day before which just might rate a bandage, to ask for Circus tickets or to inquire if there is room in the Brownie Troop now. It is checking in time, time to be busy with hanging up coats, time to be turning books and treasures into the office for safe keeping, time to be signing in for the afternoon's activities.

All is hubbub, Lord, and pleasant confusion until activities begin when, ideally, everyone is settled for the afternoon. The woodshop machines are then in motion, the craft room is a beehive of activity, late comers are washing hands for cooking class, little hands are busily cutting and pasting a "whatzit", the tumbler are tumbling in the "gym" and children are playing active games together in the room below.

Remember, Lord, I said ideally everyone is settled, but, as you well know, perfection is not to be had in this life. Already, Marie has exasperatingly placed one of the best paint brushes in the shellac jar, Shirley has run off to God knows where when it is her turn to stir the muffin dough, some mischievous boys have thrown snowballs into the House to tease the girls, Diane and Joanne have just run shrieking after each other through the game room with no regard for the group engaged in learning a new game. It is at times like these, Lord, that I pray:

"Grant that I may think of them as You think of them and of me.
"Grant that I may feel to-



CHARLES SETTLEMENT HOUSE
445 Jay Street
Enables children, youth and adults of the neighborhood to participate in recreational, educational and social activities.
STAFF
Ruth Ehmman, Director, Eileen McCarthy, Paul Dupre, Lauretta Ehmman, John LeRoux, Jerome Serafine, Ann Marie Valino, Albert Walker.

ward them, as You feel toward them and toward me.

"Grant that I may speak to them, and of them, as You would were You in my place."

As you know, Lord, all the activities of the Charles House do not run on schedule. The Boy and Girl Scouts have their meetings at regular times, of course, and the ladies have their time for Sewing Class and Home Bureau, and the people who wish to learn English and become American citizens know when they can come for that and there is a time when the youngsters can use the yard for supervised play, and the whole neighborhood knows when it is time for Day Camp. And we, the staff, have our

times, too, for meetings and for planning and learning and yes, for eating. But, yes, Lord, none of these times are invulnerable to change or interruption. You cannot tell a woman whose husband has just run out on her that she cannot see you now, it is your supper hour; nor the little boy, either, who comes just when you have taken the meat off the stove, to inquire about the Settlement, but cannot speak a word of English (nor you of Italian).

A group member has no way of knowing that her interest in finishing her project after a couple of weeks absence is a bit taxing both to your energy and patience. Come in when you are able and we will talk over your daughter's problem, may be while you are in the midst of planning for a group. A parent who comes in worried because his child has not come home from school by supper time does not see that

you are busily engaged with someone else. You know all this, Lord, and you know my human failings, so that when sometimes it is difficult to accept the interruptions in good grace:

"Grant that I may consider it a privilege not to be ministered unto, but to minister."
"Grant that I may seek opportunities of doing for others in a kindly and humble way, seeing You and serving You in them."

Dear Lord, help us to always realize our responsibility as the staff of a character-building agency, in, first of all giving good example, in trying to supplement the family, church, and school by doing what we can to help our youthful charges to live normally and happily, and in being alert and receptive to the needs of the neighborhood which we serve. To aid us in this:

"Place in our minds Your thoughts, in our hearts Your love, on our lips Your words, that we may learn to love others as You love us. Amen."

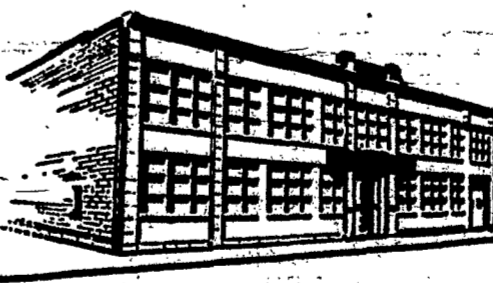
'Red Feather'

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 1928 some of the Chests found it too expensive to give a celluloid 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 17 years later.

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