

## Family Agency Aids Entry To St. Ann's

For the past ten years, CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER has offered the services of a caseworker to assist persons who wish to enter St. Ann's Home.

As an outgrowth of the requests to enter St. Ann's, has come the increased need for the worker to be used on a consultative basis. This situation has arisen because of the number of persons, sixty five years and over, who require living arrangements other than those afforded by St. Ann's. Each person's needs, while basically the same, vary depending upon his physical and mental health, his financial resources, and his own particular desires and wishes.

Every day 1000 more people become members of the age group, 65 years and over. Each day there are proportionally more older persons suffering from some type of chronic illness. Medical science has contributed much in the area of prolonging life, so that there are fewer deaths from T.B. and pneumonia.

Today, we find more older persons suffering from some form of chronic degenerative illness, such as, arthritis, arteriosclerosis, paralysis, as the result of cerebral hemorrhage. Each year, the need for a plan

for the chronically ill older person will become more critical, unless the community plentifully puts into operation expansion of facilities, geared to meeting not just what is now needed, but what will be needed ten years from now. We can see now no decline in the number of aged in our population, but rather, a steady increase.

Quite frequently the older person and his family are at a loss to know what resources do exist in the community. Most of us know the existence of St. Ann's Home, the other church-sponsored Homes for the Aged, the Monroe County Home and Infirmary, Nursing Homes, and the Rochester State Hospital. In addition, in the city of Rochester, there are a limited number of supervised boarding homes.

The difficulty in planning lies in deciding which resources will best meet the needs of the particular older person. It is in this area that the caseworker at CATHOLIC FAMILY CENTER can be used to good advantage. The worker is available to meet with members of the family and the older person to offer suggestions, to talk to the older person about living arrangements he would like and to explore with him the possibilities available.



ST. ANN'S HOME—Guests find happiness in doing something.

### Stranger Finds Home At St. Ann's

The Dillon family—Mother, Dad, the four girls and three boys had just finished their evening meal. As they arose to give thanks to God for His loving providence, there was a heavy knock at the door.

As Jack, the eldest son, opened the door, a medium-height elderly man appeared on the threshold and in a husky voice asked for something to eat. The parents exchanged glances which held a story known only to them. Non-employment, hospital expenses and usual expenditures were quickly exhausting their funds. Today, they were just able to fill the needs for supper and keep a moderate supply for the children's breakfast. Nevertheless, no one was ever excluded from the radiance of their charity.

Quickly offering the visitor a chair Mr. Dillon said, "You are welcome to any food on the table" and he arranged a place for him. "We are now going to pray the family Rosary, which we never omit at this time of day," said Mrs. D.—as she pored some tea into the stranger's cup.

The family then moved into the Living Room and their visitor knelt near the table and prayed the Rosary too.

Before leaving this haven of hospitality our guest confided his life story to Mr. D. His two sons had given their lives for their country in World War I. His only daughter at the age of six was the victim of the Flu during the epidemic which followed that war. Three years ago his wife died leaving him alone. Since then he has lived alone in their comfortable home and not having worked during that time on account of his age of retirement his funds ran out and he was obliged to seek help. He had heard of Mr. and Mrs. Dillon, of their family, their wonderful hospitality and their friendliness, so he decided to go to them in need.

Owing to his contact with Mr. D.—this old gentleman is now enjoying the home like atmosphere and the friendly companionship of the guests at St. Ann's Home.

### Interest Held Key To Care Of Aged

The old fashioned rocker on farm house porch where Grandma or Grandpa could growse away their honored last years has vanished but Grandma and Grandpa have not. There were never so many old folks as now.

Companionship At its best, old age is a lonely existence and must be brightened by cheerful companions and a staff with patience and affection. The pressure of modern city living makes domestic adaptability by old people a more difficult. The aged find it difficult to change their habits late in life. It is longer convenient for Grandparents to live with their children. Nevertheless many old people can and do get along together.

Old age often shows symptoms of growing self-interest. Important events are no longer significant to old people unless they directly touch upon their lives. The birthdays especially must be recognized and the older one is the more mention must be made of it. One lady in St. Ann's Home recently observed her 93rd birthday. She was so overjoyed on this occasion that she requested her picture to be taken and printed in the daily newspaper. She insists that she is now 100 because she has begun her centennial year.

To benefit old people and keep them happy one must have the gift of understanding them. The tendency of some to live in the past is very strong. Others show a lack of interest in everything about them. Some are cooperative, orderly and quiet and give very little or no trouble. Others are more or less restless.

Occupational Therapy When they are occupied they are happy. Properly selected occupational therapy exercises arthritic hands and encourage the use of affected extremities preventing invalidism.

It is not enough to provide physical comforts for these aged people. They must have the consideration of the companions.

Anything that will preserve the self respect and dignity of old age should be appropriated for their use. It is their right and privilege to have their few remaining years happy and free from worry.

Grant Oh, Divine Master, that we may understand.

The business of understanding Aged holds top priority at St. Ann's Home.

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