

Diocese of Rochester

CATHOLIC CHARITIES REVIEW

Who are the people who put Catholic Charities into action?

They are a team of clergy, nuns and lay people — some who make the Charities work their life's career, others who volunteer a few hours help each month.

Two youngsters, a senior at Nazareth Academy and a junior at Aquinas Institute, pied Father Donald Mulcahy and Father William Charbonneau with questions recently.

The two are Barry McGee, 16, of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, and Janet Long, 17, of Sacred Heart Cathedral parish.

They wanted to know more about the Rochester Catholic Charities.

This is what they learned:

"A very necessary ingredient for a successful social worker is concern for people," said Father Mulcahy.

"Our complex world these days produces many problems some people just can't solve by themselves. Agencies like our Catholic Charities are organized to help these people work out a solution for their problems."

Charity is patient;
is kind,
never fails . . .

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Worthy of Support

My dear People:

"THEY NEED YOUR HELP — GIVE YOUR FULL SHARE." With this slogan for the Campaign, may I call to your attention the annual Community Chest and Red Cross Campaign. I do so because the success of this Campaign vitally concerns so many agencies carrying on very necessary programs, programs dealing with human life at every age and in many fields of charitable activity. These programs deserve our support. Rather than carry their individual appeals to each of us, in an endless series of collections, they join in this one majestic effort which combines them all in one annual Campaign. You are the essential element in that effort.

We can easily conceive of a situation in which month after month, some worthwhile philanthropic cause would organize a campaign for its work, and we could not support it. Your Chest has been especially successful in the control of such appeals, by way of the general participation those causes deemed worthy of community support, regardless of personal creed, or color. While this may result, as it often does, in consistent increases year by year in the amount to be raised, the burden on the people in the community is definitely lightened.

The Chest Campaign is a project in which everyone should feel a sense of responsibility to be as generous as possible. That spirit of personal responsibility must be yours. The Rochester Community Chest and Red Cross as the outstanding organizations in the city are, they are essentially — of the people, by the people and for the people.

The urgency of the 1963 appeal is expressed in the slogan for this year "THEY NEED YOUR HELP — GIVE YOUR FULL SHARE." The amount to be raised this year looks very large. Surely the generosity of our community is equal to the challenge.

Your generous help is necessary to meet the burden assumed for this year's Campaign. That generosity has never yet failed. It shall not fail us now! May God bless you, our Chest Campaign of 1963, and all those who by their real efforts, and generosity will make it an outstanding success.

With a blessing, I am,

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester

BISHOP JAMES E. KEARNEY

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love than this no one has, that one lay down his life for his friends." (St. John — 15, 12)

Statistics of Service

Your Excellency:

Once again the forthcoming Community Chest Campaign presents us with the opportunity of telling you and our fellow Catholics the story of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester. Elsewhere in this supplement are the statistics of service to your flock.

This year marked the completion of the establishment of lay advisory boards for each of the agencies and institutions affiliated with the Charities. These boards are already making an invaluable contribution to the work of Charities in this diocese. These lay-men and women are given an opportunity to fulfill in a special way their obligation of charity by assisting the priests, sisters and lay workers in providing better service to our fellow Catholics.

I would be remiss if I did not express my sincere admiration and gratitude to the priests, sisters and lay workers who make the Good Shepherd a daily reality in the lives of thousands. Of course, the underpinning of this tremendous effort is the Community Chest of Rochester and Monroe County. Therefore this supplement is not only a report through you to Catholics, but also to the whole community.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur E. Ratigan

Director
Rochester Catholic Charities

BISHOP JAMES E. KEARNEY



to show Janet Long and Barry McGee one of Catholic Charities services to community.

Janet said, "That's exactly what I want to do — to help people."

"Good will isn't quite enough," Father Charbonneau stated. "Social work is more than an art, it's also a profession — like law or medicine or teaching — and you need a very specialized preparation."

Barry asked what that involved.

"College education and probably post-graduate study too," Father Mulcahy explained. "A social worker needs thorough knowledge of such sciences as psychology and sociology — why people act the way they do, either normally or abnormally — and knowledge also of resources available in a community which can help people in solving their problems."

"To have all this knowledge requires not just a college diploma but a continuing process of education too," he said.

Barry asked if most social workers were women or if men were employed too.

Affirmative role to play in a Catholic Charities organization or in priests and nuns to most of the work.

Father Mulcahy listed the main services of the Rochester Charities unit which lay people are the major part of the work: arranging adoption of children, foster homes, providing health and home services for the aged.

He also said many couples who are having difficulties with their marriage prefer to talk to a lay person when they seek counsel to "mend their marital fences."

Barry asked if most social workers were women or if men were employed too.

"We need both," Father Charbonneau said. He told how most students now enrolled in graduate studies in social work were men. He also pointed out how men are better suited to work with adolescent boys and with other men in family problem cases.

Women social workers, of course, are usually best in cases involving younger children, unwed mothers, older women.

Is there a "future" in social work?

Both priests agreed yes.

"There's no indication that people are going to stop having problems," Father Mulcahy commented. "As long as they have difficulties they can't solve by themselves, then there's a need for agencies like ours. Actually all indications point to an increase in the years ahead."

He also explained that more people are turning to social work agencies to help them.

"A few years back, people came only when they were desperate. Now they come when they detect symptoms of developing difficulties. Better education, better information about the agencies, coming from agencies who were themselves helped —

own generous spirit but in communities like ours, a sound wage scale is now established and social workers are assured a better future" than their pioneering predecessors.

Father Mulcahy said, "We still need people with a sense of dedication but the Rochester Community Chest and the Wage Study Committee of the Council of Social Agencies have a progressive and realistic viewpoint about adequate wages for social workers."

How "big" a job does the overall Catholic Charities program do?

"How do you put a price tag on a home for a child, a disturbed child restored to normal happy living, a lone some elderly person who's made to feel wanted, youngsters with no place to play near home taken to a park for a day in the sunshine?"

"The total cost of operating the Catholic Charities during the past year was \$2,246,735. The Community Chest contributed \$664,332 toward that amount. We think the people of the Rochester area who benefited from these services would say the value couldn't be written with a dollar sign," Father Mulcahy said.

He told Barry and Janet to "come again" if they wanted to know more about social work and how to get ready for a career in this profession. And any other youngsters who have questions about the topic are also invited to contact Rochester Catholic Charities in the Columbus Building on Chestnut St. in downtown Rochester.

FATHER DONALD J. MULCAHY
to help people help themselves

FATHER CRAIG ANKNA
teaches knowledge

Counsel for Couples

The increase in the number of requests for marital counseling led Catholic Family Center recently to establish a Marital Counseling Unit. This unit is staffed by two counselors — a man and a woman — who are specially trained.

Both have had professional training in the science of human behavior and many years of experience in helping troubled families.

Typical of such cases are "Jim and Jane" who had been married for ten years. Jim was quiet, thoughtful, and a good provider. Jane was outgoing, restless and a mixer. Increasingly their quarrels were bitter and endless. Each tried to control every situation.

Some of the couples, barely out of their teens, had been married just a few years. Other couples, deep in the routine of the middle years, had been married for longer periods. The problems presented to the caseworker ranged from emotional compatibility to disagreement over discipline of the children; from management of money to law infidelity. Infidelity and alcoholism were other symptoms.

Underneath the accusation of each partner ran the thread of the wife feeling inferior and the husband misunderstood and unappreciated.

During 1962, 247 couples received help with their marital problems.

The most successful cases were those in which both the husband and wife participated in the counseling. But even when just one partner was involved, change did take place.

Through counseling they learned to understand and respect themselves and each other, to appreciate their differences. The marriage began to take on new zest. They talked and listened to each other with their hearts and minds.

They may still disagree over many things, but the quarrels are now over "things," not each other.

The general pattern of the counseling process is for the caseworker to see the husband and wife in an interview together, followed by separate interviews, and occasionally again together.

For some problems only a few interviews may be needed. For others it may be a matter of months. The caseworker offers to each partner a confidential relationship in which he feels accepted and understood. Each spouse confides details of what is good for the marriage, and what is bad. Through this talking, each begins to learn a little more about himself and his partner.

As the couple carry over talking with the caseworker to talking with each other, the channels of communication are open. They begin to appreciate themselves, and to have respect for their differences.

They may still disagree over many things, but the quarrels are now over "things," not each other.

