

The Catholic COURIER

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Page 11 Journal

Paradox of Poverty in Affluent U.S.

The paradox of poverty in a nation noted for its affluence is one reason for having a Diocesan Catholic Charities organization.

But the biggest reason is that Christ the Lord of the Church commands us to continue His works of mercy.

The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester is a network of nine agencies staffed by nearly 500 specially educated workers.

Heading the Charities complex is 42 year old Father Donald J. Mulcahy, one of the first priests in the United States to win a degree of Master of Social Work.

He said in an interview that the symbol of Christian charity is Christ our Saviour as the Good Shepherd willing to give His life for His sheep.

Today the Bishop of a diocese is the shepherd who has to guide his people in keeping the twofold command—to love God and neighbor.

In an area as large as the Rochester Diocese—twelve counties—the Bishop obviously can't carry out an extensive program of charity alone.

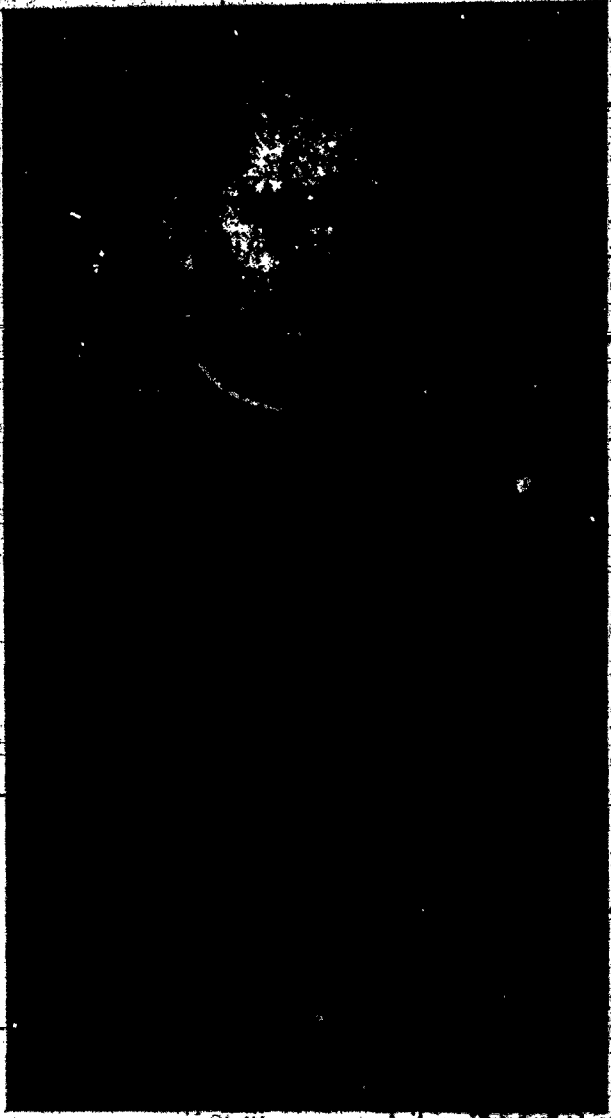
Charity, explained Father Mulcahy, is more than just giving money to the indigent people over a financially difficult time.

In the complex problems of the modern era, technical solutions are often needed to help people in their needs. Besides financial problems, people have psychological, psychiatric, emotional and sociological problems. Our staff workers at Catholic Charities have been trained to help such people cope with these problems.

Why have a Catholic Charities organization to parallel government welfare agencies which provide similar services?

"I believe in a democracy," Father Mulcahy stated. "Citizens and government, in my opinion, should work cooperatively—we have a responsibility to aid our government and just benefit from it. Whenever a voluntary agency, whether Church sponsored or not, can meet the needs of people, then I think the agency should continue to do the job—that's the basic philosophy of the Community Chest as we have it here in the Rochester area and the United Fund as it is in other areas."

"A Catholic Charities has a further responsibility besides providing social services, important and necessary as these are—we should provide our services



Father Donald J. Mulcahy, Director of Catholic Charities

with love, with Christian charity. St. Paul said, 'Caritas Christi urget nos... it is the love of Christ which drives us on.'

Father Mulcahy admitted there are some long-term problems which are medical care for the aged, dependent children, inflation—especially as

this affects elderly people, increasing juvenile delinquency. All of which are beyond the capacities of privately operated agencies to solve.

"In these areas we have to look to the government at the local, state or federal level to provide for the general welfare of people in these situations."

Does Father Mulcahy foresee an era when there will be no people in need?

"Certainly not that heaven's future (there's going to be an increase in needs—and that means a continued expansion of Charities programs, Community Chest programs and government welfare. There will be more people living longer, there will probably be more people moving from one section of the country to another and this frequently brings in its wake many problems.

"Expansion of needs and services indicates we will also need many young men and women to make this service of others their life's work."

"We need young people who have the idealism of a Peace Corps volunteer who also wants the permanence and prestige of a professional position as a social worker or agency executive," Father Mulcahy pointed out.

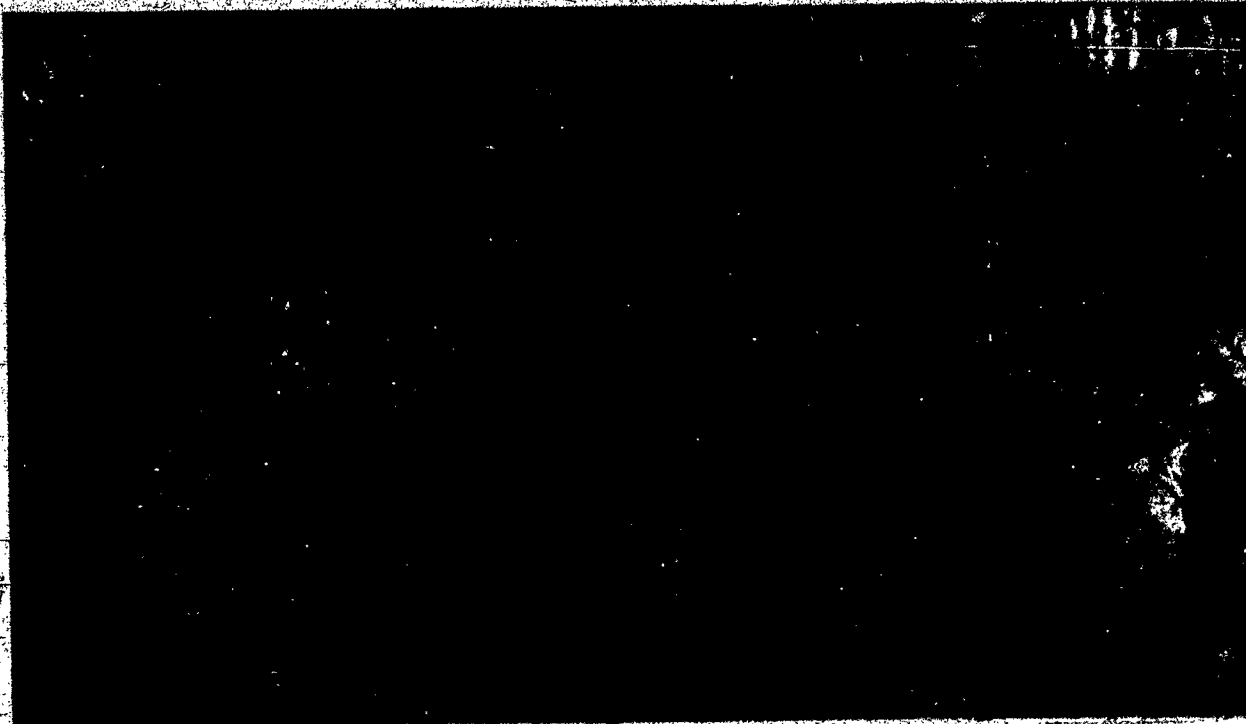
He said he would be glad to talk this topic over with students who are interested in a career in Catholic Charities work.

He also said there is a need for more personal care of individual citizens—Scout leaders who will direct a unit in an inner-city parish which lacks its own leaders, teachers who will tutor for less children from "culturally deprived" inner-city hoodlums, families who will form friendships with other families in depressed sections of the city, parish programs of charity to provide emergency food and clothing supplies, and volunteers to aid agencies in their already overtaxed aid programs.

Father Mulcahy said government, Catholic Charities and other privately operated agencies and individual citizens can make their communities and nation stronger through "mutual concern and cooperation."

"God loves a cheerful giver," Father Mulcahy said quoting Scripture. "Whatever we give to our neighbor in any of his varied needs, we find that God puts cheer and joy into our hearts. We benefit as much in giving as those who receive our help."

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Genesee Settlement House workers has a lot of helpers!

You Can't Put a Price Tag On Services Costing \$2 Million

How much does charity cost?

The Catholic Charities during the past year, Father Donald J. Mulcahy, diocesan director, stated, had a budget of well over two million dollars.

The Rochester and Monroe County Community Chest contributed \$871,273 toward that amount.

The balance is made up through contributions or fees paid by those who can afford to pay for the services given them, said Father Mulcahy.

"You really can't put a price tag on services which arrange a home for a child, counsel to a young couple, care for the aged," he commented.

How did this program start? Who are the people who translate hopes into realities—for childless couples who want to adopt a baby... for an elderly person to find companionship... for youngsters to have a place to play... for orphans and needy children who need a home?

Here is the story which began quite inconspicuously over 50 years ago and is now one of the nation's most extensive and best organized diocesan Catholic Charities programs.

Catholic Charities was organized in 1912 by Archbishop Thomas E. Hickey, Rochester's second bishop, as the Catholic Charity Guild, a federation of voluntary organizations.

Pioneers who worked on a voluntary basis would hardly recognize their organization today which is now a multi-million dollar program staffed by over 200 specially trained workers.

Originally established to aid persons in need of urgent financial assistance, today's

program also includes family counseling, adoption and home arrangements, treatment for emotionally disturbed children, the varied program of the settlement house and the extensive recreational program of the settlement house and the extensive recreational program of the Catholic Youth Organization.

Archbishop Hickey appointed Joseph E. Staub to assist people in need of urgent help. Father Staub developed a systematic relief service and in 1914 opened a permanent office. Miss Elizabeth McSweeney, widely known for her pioneer work in caring for unmarried mothers, was the first staff member. Miss McSweeney worked 38 years with Catholic Charities until her retirement in 1952.

William F. Nolan was employed in 1917 as general secretary of the Charities. He conducted a fund campaign which realized the record sum of \$77,000 to finance the Charities program. In the next year, the Catholic Charities became a member of the Rochester Community Chest.

Also in 1917 the Catholic Charity Guild took the lead in pressing for legislation to permit the incorporation of Catholic Charities organizations. The bill was passed during the legislative session of 1917. The Diocese of Rochester then incorporated the Catholic Charities Aid Association to operate its new and expanding programs.

Miss Kathleen d'Ollen, now retired, became the Catholic Charities first social worker, following her Red Cross service overseas during World War I. Miss d'Ollen brought to the agency an intense concern for the needy as one of Rochester's earliest pioneers in the field.

Miss d'Ollen trained and directed new workers as the Charities program expanded in the decade of the 20s. She

is widely recognized for developing the foster home plan to care for homeless children. She was given national recognition as the first social worker to make use of foster homes for the care of unmarried mothers.

The late Rev. John B. Crowley was appointed director in 1919 to succeed Father Staub. Father Crowley served as director for 5 years. Bishop John Francis O'Hern, while vicar general of the Diocese, acted as director without title until the appointment of the then Rev. Walter A. Foery, now Bishop of Syracuse, as head of the Charities organization.

In spite of a 25 per cent cut in funds, Catholic Charities expanded its services during the hard years of the depression during the 30s to provide recreational facilities for children and adults. Programs of financial assistance were developed and expanded under Father Foery's guidance.

Father Gerald C. Lambert was appointed in 1937 as Bishop Foery's successor. Already noted for his organizational ability in establishing Camp Stella Maria, Monsignor Lambert highlighted his director's career by developing St. Joseph's Villa, model imitated throughout the nation for its cottage-type plan to house homeless children. During his 19 years as director, the Charities expanding service were reorganized into a Family and Child Care Division and a Youth Division, each with a priest-director.

Rev. Arthur E. Raligan, who had been director of the Family and Child Care Division, became diocesan Charities director in 1953. Under his leadership, the various agencies of Catholic Charities continued the tradition of adapting programs to the need of the community. To meet the needs of the aging, the new St. Ann's Home on Portland Avenue

was planned and built by Monsignor Raligan.

Key roles in the various activities of the Charities have been held by Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph E. Vost and the late Rev. Walter E. Fisher, who served as associate-directors of the organization.

In September, 1963, the Rev. Donald J. Mulcahy, director of the Family & Child Care Division, was named Charities director.

Rev. Eugene McFarland is director of the Youth Division and Rev. William G. Charbonneau is director of the Family and Child Care Division.

Holding high posts in the Charities program are Howard Moath, executive secretary of the Catholic Youth Organization; Miss Mary Hanick and Miss Eileen McCarthy, director of the Settlement houses, George W. Montgomery Jr., executive secretary of the Catholic Family Center, Miss Catherine E. Wonus, caseworker director, Catholic Family Center.

Robert C. McAvoy is executive secretary of the Catholic Family Center in Auburn; Mrs. Mary E. Fitzgerald, executive director of Catholic Family Service in Elmira; Philip Powers, executive director of the DePaul Clinic and Mrs. John W. Heffernan, director of St. Elizabeth's Guild

Cook Outs For Guests

As the warmer weather approaches, the guests at St. Ann's will be looking forward to the weekly cook outs, another activity which had been out of their reach for many years. Anyone at St. Ann's who enjoys a picnic is invited to have supper on the patio every Wednesday night.

Good Neighbors Work Together

The Charles Settlement House, an agency of Rochester Catholic Charities, serves the area within State Street, Main Street West, Mount Read Boulevard, and Lyell Ave. Service to the residents of this neighborhood has been the work of the agency since its founding in 1917.

Charles House, which is affiliated with the National Federation of Settlements, attempts to meet the social and physical needs of the area in which it resides.

This is done through a varied program serving various age groups.

For the primary grades, there is an after-school program consisting of directed play, gym, craft, workshop, cooking, and Scout groups—all designed to develop new interests as well as social skills. There is also a small group established for those children in special grades who are 7 to 14 and attend school.

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These Programs Deserve Our Support

My dear People:

The recent tragic occurrences in Alaska stunned the whole nation. The destruction and consequent suffering would have left the state helpless were it not for the prompt action of the American Red Cross whose forces converged immediately upon the scene.

Medical care, clothing, inoculations, food—all these urgent needs were flown in quickly because of our generosity in the Red Cross Community Chest Campaign furnished funds for such emergencies. Once again our Community Chest and Red Cross appeal for our assistance.

May I, then, 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 philanthropy could organize a campaign for its work and ask our support. Your Chest has been exceptionally successful in the control of such appeals, by welcoming to Chest

participation those causes deemed worthy of community support, regardless of nationality, creed, or color.

While this may result, as it 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 every one should feel a personal responsibility to be as generous as possible. It is that spirit of personal responsibility that maintains the Rochester Community Chest and Red Cross as the outstanding organizations that they are. They are essentially of the people, by the people and for the people.

The amount to be raised this year looms 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 1964, and all those who by their zeal, 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 'to be as generous as possible'