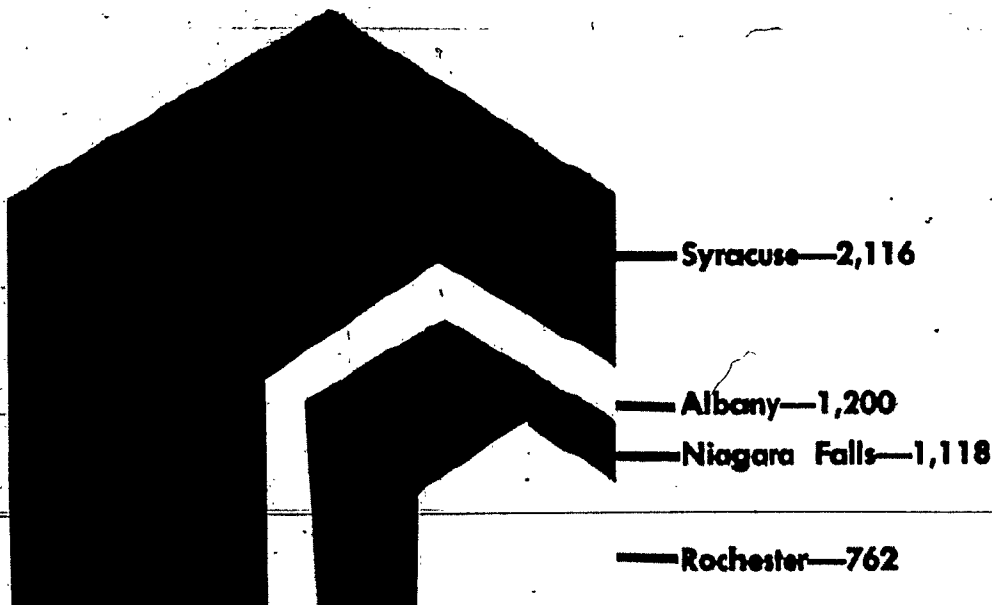


MAJORITY OF HANOVER HOUSE RESIDENTS are children. Of its 1850 tenants, over 1,000 are children.

Rochester Lags in Public Housing

Why?



Figures show number of low-cost housing units already built or in development.

The recent appointment of two inner-city pastors, one a Catholic priest, to the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) has called fresh attention to one of Rochester's most crucial problems — that of low-cost housing.

Father Gennaro Ventura, pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, and Canon St. Julian Simpkins, Jr., rector of St. Simon's Episcopal Church, were named to one-year appointments to fill in two posts left vacant since last September by two resignations.

(In resigning from the RHA last fall, Manuel D. Goldman and Dr. William J. Knox decided what they called a political takeover of the authority by the Democrats.)

Thomas McHugh is now chairman of the 5-man voluntary board, the remaining members being Edward D. Hayes and Mrs. Richard Forbes.

THE ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY was established by the State of New York in 1955 to assume responsibility for Hanover Houses, 392-unit housing project. The huge development built in 1951-52 in the Eden-Ormond area, had previously been administered by the City of Rochester.

When first created the RHA was combined with the Rochester Rehabilitation Commission, but in 1959 the two bodies were split into separate groups.

At this time, the Hanover Houses project was under heavy criticism for the condition of its buildings and its grounds. First big job for the now separate RHA, was to improve conditions at Hanover Houses.

The rehabilitation program at Hanover Houses has been a continuing one, and most observers agree, quite satisfactory.

The image of Hanover Houses projected at that time, unfortunately, has lingered on long after conditions have been improved by tighter administration and better maintenance.

On a trip through the Hanover project last week, this writer found the outside grounds, halls and stairways all neatly maintained, and the apartments visited, clean and well cared-for.

"Maintenance has improved 100% in the past 9 years," we were told by Mrs. Wallace Smith, who with her husband

and four children has lived in the project since 1956.

"Hanover Houses of 1965 can't be compared to Hanover Houses of 1959," flatly states James Porcari, executive director of the RHA. He offers a general invitation to "any group to tour Hanover Houses at any time," to check on their condition.

Today, the HH complex, made up of 7 seven-story buildings, is "home" for about 1,900 people, of whom over 1,000 are children. This makes it the most densely-populated 7 acres in Rochester.

In 1961, with conditions at Hanover Houses much improved, the Authority began a com-

prehensive survey of the City's housing needs and desires. The scope of the Authority has been broadened and is now stated as:

"... to improve the housing conditions of the City of Rochester through the provision and administration of decent, safe and sanitary housing as needed."

How much of a need is there? PLENTY!

A few figures on population and public housing will spell out this point:

Compare the non-white population of the city of Rochester in 1950 and in 1965:

1950 7,345
1964 32,340

In round figures, the non-white population of Rochester has increased by 25,000 people in 14 years.

Most of this increase is concentrated in the inner-city area of Rochester. As a "Housing in Rochester" bulletin recently issued by the Human Relations Commission of Rochester and Monroe County stated:

"With the above inflow of people, there is even to this date almost no movement of non-white families, especially of low income families, out of the inner city. Usually lacking both the resources and the opportunity to rent or buy where they choose, they remain concentrated at the core of the city."

Most of the newcomers are in the low income group. As the bulletin cited points out:

"(In Rochester) Almost three times as many non-whites as whites are unemployed; more than twice as many non-white families as white families have a medium income under \$3000 a year."

To compound the difficulty of finding decent low-cost housing, the demolition of many dwellings to make room for new highways, etc., has reduced available housing.

Since 1960, Rochester has demolished 440 inner-city dwellings through highway construction!

There has been considerable talk about private enterprise being able to put up low-cost housing in the inner-city. If it were feasible for any individual or corporation to do this, and make a reasonable profit, it would have been done long ago.

(Continued on Page 6)

14 Receive Habit as Mercy Nuns



Young Mercy nuns before (above) and after (below) they were garbed in the religious habit of their order at their Motherhouse chapel Saturday.

"The charity of God is poured forth in our hearts this day."

Monsignor Richard K. Burns applied an Ember Saturday entrance hymn theme to the 14 young girls newly clothed in the habit of the Sisters of Mercy at their Reception ceremony, Saturday, June 12.

He applied it likewise to their parents, praising them for their generosity in permitting their daughters to enter religious life, however drained they felt by their loss.

"If you love enough, the world will belong to you, because it already belongs to the One Whom you love," he told them.

Comparing the young Sisters to the apostles before and after Pentecost, he reminded them how fearful and uncertain they had been, when they entered the convent ten months ago, and what a transformation had taken place through the grace of God in the mean time. He encouraged them to deepen their dependence upon the Holy Spirit until, aflame themselves, they are able to set the world on fire with the love of God.

Monsignor Burns, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, and Vicar for Religious of the Diocese, presided at the clothing ceremony and at Benediction, assisted by Rev. P. David Finks, chaplain of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse.

Each Sister donned the white veil at the Communion rail and was given a lighted candle, the first symbolizing purity and the latter, wisdom. To express her



renouncement of a worldly life, each Sister prostrated herself before the altar, while the choir, under the direction of Sister Mary Majella, sang a hymn to the Holy Spirit.

Mother Mary Bride, Mother General, and Mother Mary Gabriel, Mother Vicar, presented the Sisters as they publicly testified that they firmly intend to persevere in religious life. They will serve a two-year period as novices and a five-year period with temporary vows before they make their permanent vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as well as the vow of perseverance as a Sister of Mercy and that of service to the

poor, the sick, and those in need of instruction.

The new novices represent 14 different parishes. Their names, new name in religion, and names of parents follow:

Killeen E. Farrell, Sister Mary Isaac, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Farrell, St. Helen, Rochester.

Mary Jo Brach, Sister Mary Jeremiah, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Brach, St. Stanislaus, Rochester.

Catherine A. Walsh, Sister Peter Marie, Mr. and Mrs. John Walsh, St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester.

Kathleen Palmeri, Sister Mary John Francis, Dr. and Mrs. V. James Palmeri, St. Michael, Newark.

Mary Katharine Gilligan, Sister Mary Christina, Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Gilligan, St. James, Rochester.

Nancy Carol Millman, Sister Thomas Mary, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Millman, St. Cecilia, Rochester.

Theresa Ann Rutty, Sister Mary Theresa Martin, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Rutty, St. Ann's, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Patrick J. Noll, Sister Marie Michael, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas (Continued on Page 6)



PRIVATE, LOW-COST HOUSING does exist, but much of it is in a dilapidated state. (This photo was used in a sub-committee report of the Housing Committee of the Civic Development Council of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and loaned to the Catholic-Courier.)

Pop-Fair of young married this theme and give it

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