

Orphanages of Diocese

(Continued from Page 5)
bered sixty boys and eighty girls. The Sisters of St. Joseph managed the institution.

The Auburn Orphanage had to be closed in 1909. A regional committee had been formed the year before to discover some means to balance a budget that had begun to show too much red ink. Nothing concrete came from the effort, so Bishop Hickey decided to discontinue the asylum. Between late 1909 and March, 1910, seventeen chil-

children (St. Joseph's Orphanage in Corning had also sent its wards to Rochester when it closed in 1906).

Matters stood thus in Rochester until 1937. In that year it was decided to combine the three Rochester asylums into one corporation and to provide a single home. St. Joseph's Asylum closed the following year. In June 1942, Bishop Kearney blessed the buildings of St. Joseph's Villa — a cottage-type of orphanage newly erected on the old Clark Farm on Dewey Ave-

in recent years a "halfway-house". Only a few of these are true orphans. Most of them are dependent and unprovided children.

Now this is a curious statistic. It prompts one to ask "What has become the numerous body of orphans whom it once took six asylums, large or small, to shelter?"

There are many answers. One would doubtless be the decline of the birth-rate. Another would be the growing practice of sending such children to foster homes. It is also easier today than at other times for relatives to take the children of deceased parents into their own homes.

Perhaps the strongest reason is the improved care of sick parents and of fathers injured in war. We must not forget that in days gone by many a child was left fatherless by the Civil War and the First World War. Many a child was left motherless by the tuberculosis that afflicted so many people, especially immigrants, and by postnatal diseases. Epidemics also took off many a parent—cholera, smallpox, diphtheria, and the Spanish Influenza of 1918.

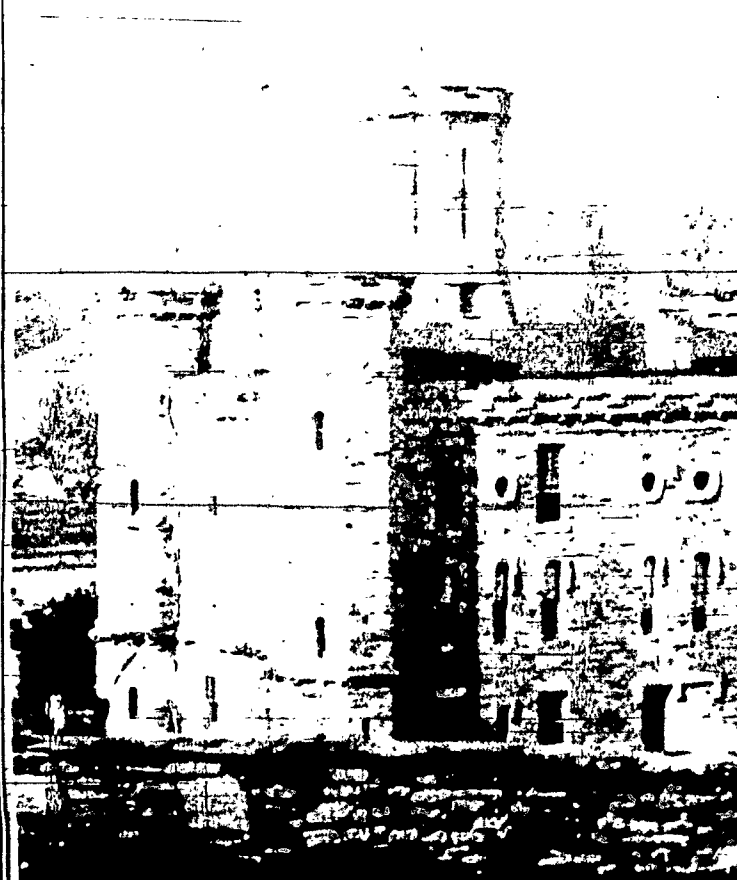
It is the needs of the moment that dictate the shape of Christian charity. Thanks to medical science in particular, the needs of the orphan — perhaps the most tragic of all needs—have diminished. But just as St. Joseph's Villa still serves today a somewhat altered purpose, the Rochester Diocesan orphanages of the past in their day filled a notable role.

Through these institutions, those in charge, aided by the compassionate clergy and laymen of the diocese, have been the "helpers to the fatherless."



St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum

the girls and forty-nine little boys were taken from Auburn to Rochester and enrolled at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's asylums. The building in Auburn was disposed of in 1917, and the two Rochester orphanages as a contribution towards the maintenance of the Auburn area.



St. Joseph's Orphanage in Corning. (Photo from 1879)

Debate Meet at Webster School

Junior Varsity debaters from McQuaid and a novice team from Irondequoit High topped their divisions in the first grand tournament of the Rochester Area Forensic League.

Thirteen schools were represented in the tournament, held last weekend at R. L. Thomas High School, Webster. Bishop Kearney, McQuaid and Irondequoit won awards for best teams in both divisions.

Seek Host Families For International Student Program

The Council of Catholic Women has been asked to secure five host families in this diocese for high school age boys from other nations. Interested persons are to contact the Council's chairman of Family Affairs, Mrs. Nelson Zimmer, 257 Castlebar Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14610, telephone 244-7901. Deadline for application is March 15.

The 1968-69 school year program for 150 students from Europe and Latin America to be placed throughout the United States is being directed by the National Council of Catholic Women.

"The Doors" Here March 16

The Civic Music Association has announced that THE DOORS, fast-rising singing group from Los Angeles, will appear at the Eastman Theatre Sat., March 16.

XAVIERIAN BROTHERS

Religious Teachers in the service of the Church
Writes Brother Guy, C.F.X.
461 Wickham Street, Box 11
Newton Highlands, Mass. 02111



Job Corps Head Gets Catholic Award

Washington, D.C. — William P. Kelly, director of the Job Corps in Washington (center), is cited by the United States Catholic Conference for "outstanding leadership and achievements in behalf of the disadvantaged youth of our nation." The award is being presented by Msgr. Thomas J. Leonard, director of the USCC Youth Department (right). Looking on is James Hamilton, director of the National Council of Churches Washington Office.

Priest Suggests Masons Open Door to Catholics

Danville, Ill. — (NC) — A priest-theologian at the University of Notre Dame advocated a church commission to hold dialogues with Masonic leaders to remove present obstacles to Catholic membership in that fraternal organization.

Father John A. O'Brien told a "consistory" of Scottish Rite Masons such a commission could be modeled on similar groups which have been formed for ecumenical conversations with both Christian and non-Christian groups.

"Such conferences with Masons would show, I think, that the obstacles to Catholic membership are either imaginary ones or could easily be removed without compromising any basic Masonic principles," he said.

Father O'Brien stressed he voiced his personal opinion, not an official view of the Church.

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