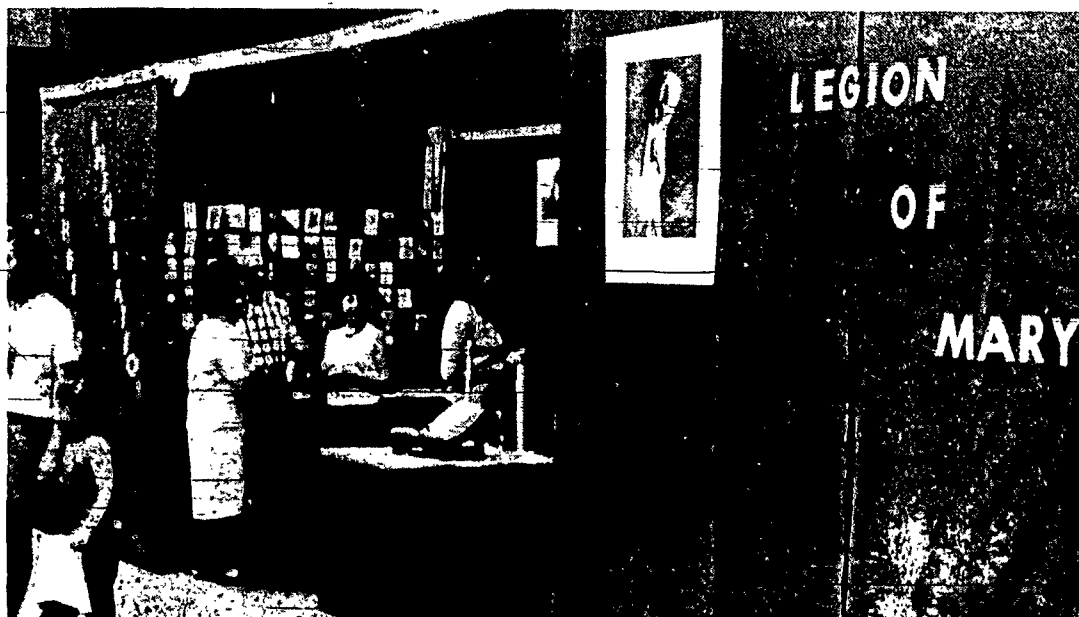


Legion of Mary Treads New Paths



VISITING A PATIENT at Monroe County Hospital are Legion of Mary members (from left) Gordon Keating, John Conway and Joseph Cullinane. The patient, seated in a combination wheel-chair and desk is Miss Joyce Capone, a multiple sclerosis victim.



CATHOLIC INFORMATION BOOTH at the Monroe County Fair is manned by Legionaries of Mary each summer. It provides a chance for thousands of fairgoers to get an insight into the Catholic Church through exhibits, pamphlets and a staff of volunteers ready to answer questions.

FIGHT Leader Says:

Face the Fact of Racism

The leader of Rochester's Negro community organization, FIGHT, this week paid tribute to the accuracy of the recent report on riots issued by the President's Commission on Civil Disorders.

"This is the first group of this caliber to tell it as it is," DeLeon McEwen told a meeting of the Catholic Interracial Council last Sunday at Immaculate Conception School hall.

The report concluded that Americans live in "a racist society, and that its institutions perpetuate racism," the 30-year-old FIGHT leader stated.

"I have a feeling that the white community is evading these conclusions," he continued.

McEwen said that Americans in general should face the fact that "there are two societies" in this nation.

"I am not advocating separa-

tism," he said deliberately, then added, "the fact is, we are separate, and the institutions of the country tend to support this situation."

The FIGHT leader insisted however that the present situation is by no means unchangeable. Public opinion can be moved, and action can be aroused, he went on.

He stressed the value of "strong coalition groups" which can give a voice to "now largely disorganized" Black (or other minority) group.

An organized coalition can assess the problems of the people it represents, put their needs squarely before the public and back viable programs, he said.

"Social justice comes for a minority group when its members can bring enough pressure to bear to achieve that justice," he said bluntly.

He urged the Catholic Interracial Council members to use their energies in their own communities to bring about fresh attitudes. "Organize for specific goals, solicit support for needed changes," he urged his hearers.

In a question period, McEwen criticized the progress made to date by Rochester Jobs, Inc., a cooperative venture of local industries which has attempted to find jobs for "hard core" unemployed people. He specified:

- Most of the jobs provided thus far have been jobs which don't seem to offer much in terms of improving the worker's skills. He mentioned maids as an example.

- Most of the jobs obtained to date have been for women, "and right now, we're more concerned about jobs for men."

—Father Robert Kanka

Nearly 1,000 active Legion of Mary members will renew their dedication to this apostolate in four ceremonies planned for late March. The Acies will be held in two Rochester churches and in Elmira and Auburn.

The Legion, soon to begin its 30th year in the Rochester Diocese, has countless auxiliary members outside the formal organization. These are people who support the active work of the Legion by their prayers each day.

An anecdote was offered this week as an example of the kind of work done.

A severely handicapped woman sought someone to accompany her husband to the 25th wedding anniversary Mass that she could not attend. She did not want him to go alone to their own Mass. "Legion members saw to it that an ambulance was provided and other arrangements were made to help make the day a happy one," a member related.

The Legion, working with members of other faiths, recently undertook a religious census. It is working now on organizing new units at St. Philip Neri and Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishes. Early planning is being done on the Catholic information booths for several county fairs this summer.

Many Legion members are now acting as instructors in the Confraternity of Christ Doctrine. Others are doing Scout work or helping out in the schools.

Thousands of the sick of the diocese are visited weekly by legion members.

Three inner-city youth clubs are being guided by Legionaries. Junior Legionaries are actively engaged in coping with a narcotic problem that is becoming widespread in the area of at least one Rochester parish.

Thousands of home visits are made by the Legion of Mary. Some are census calls, some to ask people to become active or auxiliary members. Visits are made to people who are in sorrow, to people who are seeking the faith and those who have lost it.

Contact is made with those of other faiths to promote understanding. Legion members will soon administer "Operation Lonely," a program designed to help others to engage in apostolic work. In many parishes members will assist in Mass-in-the-home programs.

Plans are being made to meet with councils of other areas, to exchange ideas; to formulate new works and expand the present scope of activities.

Girl Scouts Observe Scout Sunday

Girl Scouts of the Greece area will mark Girl Scout Sunday, March 10, with ecumenical services at St. Lawrence Church. Fourteen troops, numbering a total of 365 girls, are expected to participate.

Other church services slated for the week-long observation include those at Mother of Sorrows, Greece Methodist, Aldergate Methodist, Bethany Presbyterian, St. John the Evangelist and St. Charles.

Catholic Family Center Opens 'Inner City Services' Program

The Catholic Family Center of Rochester has moved deeper into the problems of the city by opening three inner-city centers.

The program has placed three case workers, each with a small team of family workers, in areas where some of the more acute social problems are found.

The new "on the spot" centers are open 12 hours a day, six days a week, to make the help of the Catholic Family Center as easy to obtain as possible.

"Inner City Services" is the name given to the new operation, which is directed by John Rice of the downtown Catholic Family Center.

In operation since September, the new neighborhood centers have opened 81 cases since then, and as of February, are now working with 185 individuals or families.

"Most of these people would not have come downtown to seek assistance," commented George Montgomery, executive director of the Catholic Family Center. "We knew that there were many people with real needs, but they had not been coming to us, so now we're going to them."

All three centers have their base in Catholic rectories but their assistance is available to anyone in the neighborhood, regardless of faith, Montgomery pointed out.

Case workers who head each

of the three centers are James Bauer, located at Immaculate Conception rectory in the Third Ward; Bernard Houllihan, based at St. Bridget's in the general Hand-Graham and Baden-Ormond sections; and Lawrence McNally, who works from Mt. Carmel rectory in the Woodward-Scio area.

Each of the case workers is assisted by two family workers who are frequently residents of the area.

"The family workers have increased our contacts in the three neighborhoods greatly," noted Father William Charbonneau, who directs the Catholic Family Center.

Family workers have been

selected for their home location and their general identity with their own neighborhoods. Four of them are Negroes, two are Puerto Ricans, which has helped their rapport with the people they serve.

"We have been involved in the inner city for many years," Father Charbonneau noted as he explained the program, "but our case workers have only been there on a part time basis for the past five years."

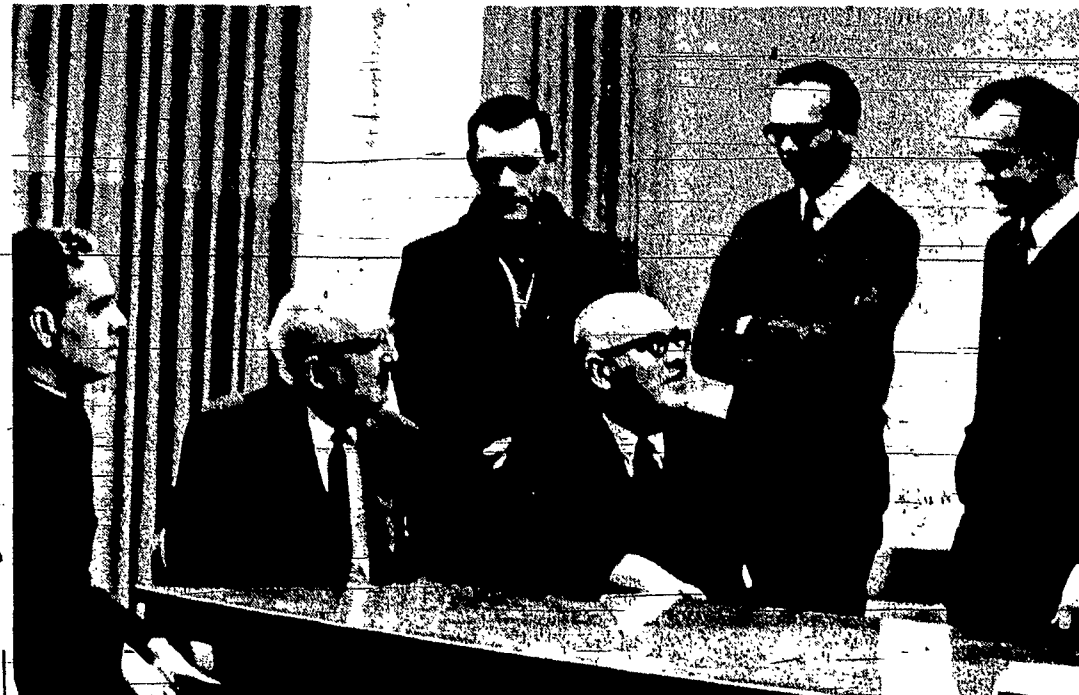
Realizing the limited nature of this approach, the Inner City committee of the Catholic Family Center Board studied the problem last Spring, recommended the new "on the spot" centers.

With an appropriation of \$40,000 authorized by the Community Chest, the centers were launched in the Fall, and have proven extremely helpful, Father Charbonneau stated.

"It meant adding ten people to our staff, but the program has succeeded beyond our expectations," Montgomery noted.

The new centers, which make available a wide variety of services where they are most needed, does underline one obvious fact, Father Charbonneau concluded:

"The Church is deeply concerned and involved with the needs of the inner city."



STAFF REPORT at regular intervals keeps Catholic Family directors informed about the Inner City Services program. Seated, from left, are Father William Charbonneau, director of the Catholic Family Center; George Montgomery, executive director; John Rice, who directs the new Inner-City Service. Standing are the area case workers, from left: Lawrence McNally, James Bauer and Bernard Houllihan.

Senator Discusses Abortion Law

Senator James Powers (Dem.) will discuss the proposed revisions of the Abortion Laws on Wham's "Opinion Program" tonight, March 8 at 7 p.m.

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Aquinas Feels The Pinch Seeks Funds To Carry On

By WHIT JOHNSON

Aquinas Institute, one of Rochester's oldest and best-known high schools, may be forced out of existence by rising operational costs.

Father Leon G. Hart, C.S.B., Aquinas principal, stated that, "Unless Aquinas receives financial assistance from parents, alumni and friends of the school, it will be impossible to continue operation beyond a two-year period."

He pointed out that the school will finish the current school year with an operational deficit of \$30,000. Next year, he said, the deficit will reach \$70,000.

Confident that the school will receive substantial aid from its friends, Father Hart sent out a letter on Thursday (March 7) to St. Thomas Aquinas in a letter, he stated: "Rising costs, an aging building, and the competitive nature in the education field, has brought about serious financial problems. Aquinas is faced with these problems today."

The 1200-student boys' school was founded as Catholic High School and later called Rochester Catholic High. In 1922 the school was established as Aquinas Institute by the legislature of the State of New York.

Bishop Sheen is president of the board of trustees.

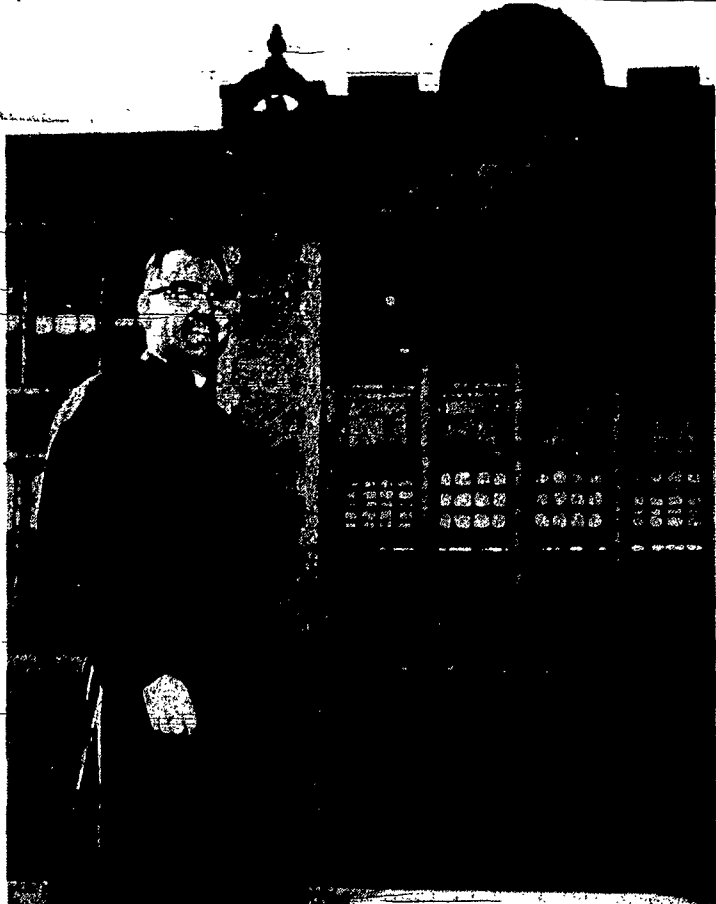
Aquinas has a staff of 44 Basilian Fathers and 23 lay teachers. Last week the lay staff announced the formation of an association to provide a salary increase.

"In spite of our desire to serve the Rochester community with quality Catholic education, the hard realities of finances cannot be overlooked," said Father Hart.

High schools elsewhere have been faced with the same financial problems. No money was the reason given by Msgr. Francis Flanagan this year as he announced the closing of Bennington, Vt.'s only Catholic High School, built just 10 years ago.

Considerable alumni concern has arisen over the purported closing of Aquinas. Strong support for the school was voiced on Feb. 26 at the first meeting of the Aquinas Alumni Association, which encompasses over 10,000 graduates in the Rochester area.

Perhaps the strongest words of encouragement were voiced to Father Hart by one of the school's freshmen. "Father, I'd be glad to give the school a dollar a week from my paper route."



BASILIAN FATHER Leon G. Hart, principal of Aquinas, stands outside the 45-year-old school building that he is trying to keep in operation.