

Local Agency Finds Homes For Low-Income Families

Rochester Neighbors, Inc., a private local agency which has found homes for 24 large but low-income families to date, has set its sight on an expanded goal of relocating 44 families in the near future.

The group is better than halfway towards a current campaign to raise \$50,000 to finance its venture, which includes buying older homes, rehabilitating them, and renting them to large families.

The Diocese of Rochester has recently pledged \$2,500 in support of the program, it was reported this week. Other sizeable donations have come

from the Jewish Community Council (\$5,000); Brighton Presbyterian Church (\$5,000), and St. Thomas More Church (\$1,000).

A five-part information series, designed to acquaint interested groups and individuals with the Rochester Neighbors approach will begin on Thursday, April 4. The first session will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Crossroads Room of Central Presbyterian Church, 50 Plymouth Avenue North.

The series aims to probe into the historical forces that have resulted in some of today's poverty problems, as

well as outline the particulars of the Rochester Neighbors' housing program.

Dr. Edward Kane, professor of history of the State University College of Brockport, will kick off the series with a talk on "The Negro Past: 1619-1940," on April 4.

The other four sessions, all slated for Immaculate Conception School Hall, will include the following topics:

Thursday, April 18: "The Negro Present"; Thursday, April 25: "Puerto Ricans and the White Poor"; and Thursday, May 2: "The Rochester Neighbors' Program" on Thursday, May 9. Discussion sessions with sponsors active in the Rochester-Neighbor program are scheduled.

The special approach of the Rochester Neighbors has been a one-to-one realtor or sponsor relationship between a sponsoring group and the family looking for a house.

The sponsoring group can be helped to find a suitable house and informed about the manner of obtaining a federal housing loan through the Rochester Neighbors program. Under the federal government's 221-D-3 law, financing up to 100 per cent is offered to such a sponsoring group to acquire and rehabilitate an older house.

Once the house is rehabilitated, the FHA held mortgage is assigned to the Federal National Mortgage Association, which becomes the mortgage bank at a low interest rate of 3%.

The 24 homes acquired through the plan in Rochester to date include 12 one-family and 6 two-family houses and are scattered throughout the city limits.

The Catholic Interracial Council of Rochester was one of the early sponsoring groups to place a family in a rented home through the program.

Rochester Neighbors has recently hired a fulltime executive director, George Bridgeman. Francis Bradley of East Rochester is president of the board of directors. 17 other area people serve on the board.

Church Plans Passover Celebration

An ancient Hebrew feast of thanksgiving will be presented by a modern-day Jewish family as part of the Easter preparation of the parishioners of Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Brockport.

The Milton Lederman family of Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester, will serve the traditional Passover meal, the seder, with its ceremonies, blessings and ritual chants at the Brockport parish school hall April 1.

The Passover is a commemoration of the Hebrew liberation from Egypt. The feast, coming as it does just before Easter, will serve as a reminder of the rich Judaic heritage of Christianity, since it was at a Passover meal that Christ instituted the Eucharist.

This will not be the first time that the Ledermans have presented their religious celebration for others. A few years back the family, at the request of Father Henry Atwell, pastor of St. Agnes Church, Avon, presented the seder at Nazareth College as part of a liturgy study day and then later repeated the ceremonies at Holy Rosary Church.

Mr. Lederman is a native of Poland, where he was born into an Orthodox Jewish family. He has a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and is a vice president of Rummell-Hoyt and assistant lecturer at the University of Rochester. His wife, Eudora, is a Rochester native from a Conservative Jewish home. She is a graduate of Brockport State College and is secretary to Rabbi Herbert Bronstein of Temple B'rith Kodesh.

All the Lederman's, including son Ernie, 17 years old, and daughter Julie, 14, are active in civic and religious organizations in the area.

The Passover meal presentation is especially recommended for families who have children making their First Communion this spring, since the updated catechetics of today stress the Eucharist as a meal of celebration.

Following the Ledermans' presentation, Father James Burke, assistant pastor at Nativity, will give a commentary and application of the seder.

PAT ANSWERS

Do you have questions about parish life, customs and traditions which bug you? The famous HELP! column doesn't know everything. Try PAT ANSWERS! . . . But don't ask PAT about faith or morals. Simply write in your concerns and hang-ups about living in the family of God . . . Address: PAT ANSWERS, 35 Scio Street, Rochester-14604. PAT'S answers will not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor, —or of the Diocese.

Q. Why is it that in some parishes the Sisters who staff the parish school refuse to teach in the religious instruction classes for the public school children?

A.—A Mother, Rochester. We checked and learned that Sisters in parish work are given the option to add weekly catechetical teaching to their everyday classroom work if they wish to volunteer. Many Sisters do and are much appreciated. Those who choose not to, take that position because they have other duties or activities during the instruction period.

Q.—Will you please say something about people who refuse to move into the pew? What a lack of charity—and in church?

A.—Tired Pew-climber, Coming. Special occasions allow "reserved pews," but no occasion calls for refusal to move in. We guess you have tried dirty looks and stepping-on-toes. All we can suggest is trying another pew—but not another church.

Q.—Is there any way of eliminating the second (and sometimes third) collection? A second passing of the basket is doubly distracting for the congregation—and no picnic for the ushers either.

A.—Many pastors would prefer to eliminate the second collection but somehow cannot find an adequate substitute. Some places we have heard of promise in the beginning of the year that there will never be a second offering if the one collection on a Sunday, when billed for two intentions, meets the need. Pastors who have found a remedy might write us—and we'll pass the word.

Q.—What has happened to the American church law—or was it merely a custom?—about ladies wearing hats in church? I'll bet they wouldn't wear those hair-ribbons and mint-veils to a proper social affair.

A.—When it comes to discussing fashion trends or feminine follies, PAT fakes out. The custom—it was

never a law in the strict sense—of ladies wearing a proper head covering is still in good repute, even if more and more disregarded. Did you know St. Paul himself discussed this centuries ago? He suggested that since a woman's hair was "her crowning glory" and probably a source of some vanity, its lustrous beauty should be dimmed a little by some covering when in God's house worshipping Him.

Q.—When will it be safe to buy a new Missal? I appreciate the parishes furnishing paperbacks or folders, but I would like to have my own book. . .

A.—Go slowly, friend. Even those cheaper editions and missal-ettes are constantly being revised. Until there is an official notice that the changes in the Mass-prayers and actions are ended, hold off from buying any Missal.

Q.—Why won't parents take that howling or talking baby to the Crying Room? It seems unfair for any parent to make the congregation suffer just because they must. Couldn't they always sit near a doorway and step into the vestibule with the baby until it gets quiet?

A.—Parents who know of the Crying Room or Nursery and refuse to use it deserve every glaring look aimed at them. The ushers ought to be brave and prompt to suggest to the parent to remove the child and spare the congregation.

Q. When did the practice start of bringing pre-schoolers to the communion railing when the parents receive? I can understand carrying small babies but this new parade of moppets tagging along with adults is something else again.

A. Apparently some small fry who are old enough to answer the telephone cannot stay in the pew alone for a couple of minutes. Parents might ask non-communicants in the seat to hold Junior's hand and keep him anchored while they are going forward.

Mercy Novices

Nuns Help in Public School



Sister Elaine helps two pupils with a reading lesson.

By Monica Reeves

Black and brown and white hands covered with red and yellow and green paint; teachers who look like teachers with red pencils in hand; and four young, bouncy nuns in the middle of it all.

Such is the scene every Wednesday morning at School Number 2 on Reynolds St. Here four novices of the Mercy Order act as teachers' aides—and love it.

The sister-volunteers are Sister Susan Marie, Killeen, Elaine Marie and Joan Mary. All are in their second year of religious life with the Sister of Mercy. In addition to volunteer work, they take courses at Catherine McAuley College, both in academic and canonical subjects.

The foursome first became involved with the Reynolds St. School through Immaculate Heart Sister Patricia Graham, who did her field work at the school while working on her Master's degree at the University of Rochester.

A Special Place

School No. 2 is a pretty special school any way you look at it. Stu-

dents from other parts of the city are bussed in to participate in the Master Achievement Program (MAP), geared to exceptionally bright youngsters.

Things operate interdepartmentally, so that if a history teacher wants some art work to present her lesson more effectively, she can turn to the art class for help.

A visitor may find teachers and students working on an exhibit on the life of George Washington Carver, painting wooden shoes for a program on Japan and making puppets for a presentation of "The Sound of Music."

The four Sisters report that the fourth and fifth graders with whom they are working have received them well. At first there were a few tentative inquiries about "Are you the 'flying nun'?" "Huh sister, are ya?" but a careful explanation or two has cleared that up.

Sister Killeen says, "Right now, we're able to attract the students' attention, because of the habit. It will be interesting to see what happens when the novelty wears off!"



Sisters Joan and Susan Marie supervise the painting of wooden shoes, Japanese style.

Church School Seeks Volunteers

The Ecumenical Church School involving four churches in Southwest Rochester is slightly embarrassed with success. Its student body has grown steadily, now numbers more than 400, and is outrunning the supply of teachers.

"We're opening a new branch—at Calvary Baptist Church on Genesee Street," stated Father Robert Kreckel, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church this week, "but we need more volunteer teachers if we're going to do a good job."

The program is already operating

at three centers, Immaculate Conception parish, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church on Jefferson Ave. and Trinity Presbyterian Church on Bronson Ave. Mercy Sister Josefa of the Urban Ministry Office is currently directing the school.

Teaching volunteers, preferably with experience in CCD work, are needed for Tuesday afternoon classes from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Further information for prospective volunteers can be obtained by calling Sister Josefa at 232-5270 during the day or at 328-1739 evenings.



Acies Speaker

Bishop Kearney, speaking to Legionaries of Mary in an annual Acies rite held at St. Anne's Church, told them that their "battle" was to establish the reign of peace in the hearts of men, under the patronage of the Mother of God. While several hundred legionaries from 20 parishes took part in this ceremony, a similar group from another 15 parishes heard Bishop Hickey speak at a Northside Acies held at St. Borromeo Church. Both took place last Sunday afternoon, March 24.

'Stations of Cross' In Real Life

Minneapolis — (RNS) — A unique "Stations of the Cross" procession was sponsored by Holy Name Catholic church here.

Traveling by bus, parishioners visited 14 sites in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area "where Christ continues to suffer with his people."

They included a suburb, a general hospital, a jail, the House of Charity, Seton House, a nursing home, a church, the chancery office, a slum, the state capitol, a newspaper building, public safety building, the Nicollet Mall and an "art" theater.

The contemporary "faith and response" project replaced the traditional type Lenten "mission" in the parish. It emphasized the responsibility of contemporary Christians "to be the response of Christ today."

St. Mary's Hospital: Two Renewal Days

St. Mary's Hospital is bringing a Vincentian theologian to Rochester this weekend, to present two full afternoon programs, one for sisters, one for laypeople, both called "A Day of Positive Christianity."

Father Bernard Ristuccia, C.M., is chairman of Niagara University's Theology Department.

The sisters' schedule (Saturday, March 30) includes conferences on "The Sacramental Meaning of Life," and "Penance, one Sacrament of Reconciliation." The conferences for the laity on Sunday, March 31 are entitled: "Secular Christianity—the Meaning of Man in the World," and "The Place of Christ and the Church in the World."

Both begin at 1 p.m. in the Bishop Kearney building of St. Mary's Hospital. The conferences will be separated by a 15 minute break, followed by a discussion period, and concluded with a Mass scheduled for 4 p.m. in the hospital chapel.

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