

Who Are the Poor?



Two boys, standing in the doorway of their home near St. Bridget's school in Rochester's inner city, typify one goal of Catholic Family Center service. Neighborhood caseworkers of Catholic Charities, meeting the parents and friends of these youngsters right on the scene, in a Hand Street home-office, give counselling service on social adjustment and housing, aid in dealing with city agencies, employment advice and material assistance without regard for religion, color or nationality.

My dear People:

Who are the poor? Are they the needy whom the Community Chest helps? Or are they those who are able to help?

It is not the poor who are helped, who are really poor. All they need are roofs over their heads, bread in their pantries, medicine on their shelves and clothes on their backs.

But we who can help are the REAL POOR, for we are impoverished in gratitude unless we share our blessings;

We are destitute in love, unless we prove it by embracing our fellowman;

We are unclothed, unless we have on the garments of charity, and;

We are hungry, unless we feed on the Word of God and the love of neighbor.

Scripture bids us to leave sheaves in the field, olives on the tree and grapes on the vine for the strangers and the fatherless, "that the Lord may bless you in all the work of your hand."

It is not charity, it is not philanthropy, it is not benevolence which prompts us to give to the 1968 Community Chest Campaign; it is our painful sense of justice unfairly withheld from our brethren.

— Devotedly yours in Christ,

Fulton J. Sheen

Bishop of Rochester



A foster-mother and her baby represent hundreds of happy associations arranged by Red Feather Child Care agencies for children unable to live in their own homes. Catholic Family Center provides foster home care, case-work service to

parents, adoption placements. Nearly half a million dollars from Community Chest supports this Catholic program. Below is the personal account of this foster-mother's appreciation of her role:

During the last two years I have had the opportunity and pleasure of caring for eight foster babies. All of whom need the same thing, love and care. These are very easy to give because most mothers have room in their heart to love. When you receive a tiny baby who is very dependent on you, you know that the extra work you will be doing is well worth it.

My children are always delighted when a new baby comes to live with us. All the neighborhood children are

told of the new arrival and they come to welcome him.

Occasionally, we have the pleasure of picking out the baby's name. Everyone enjoys deciding on just what suits him best.

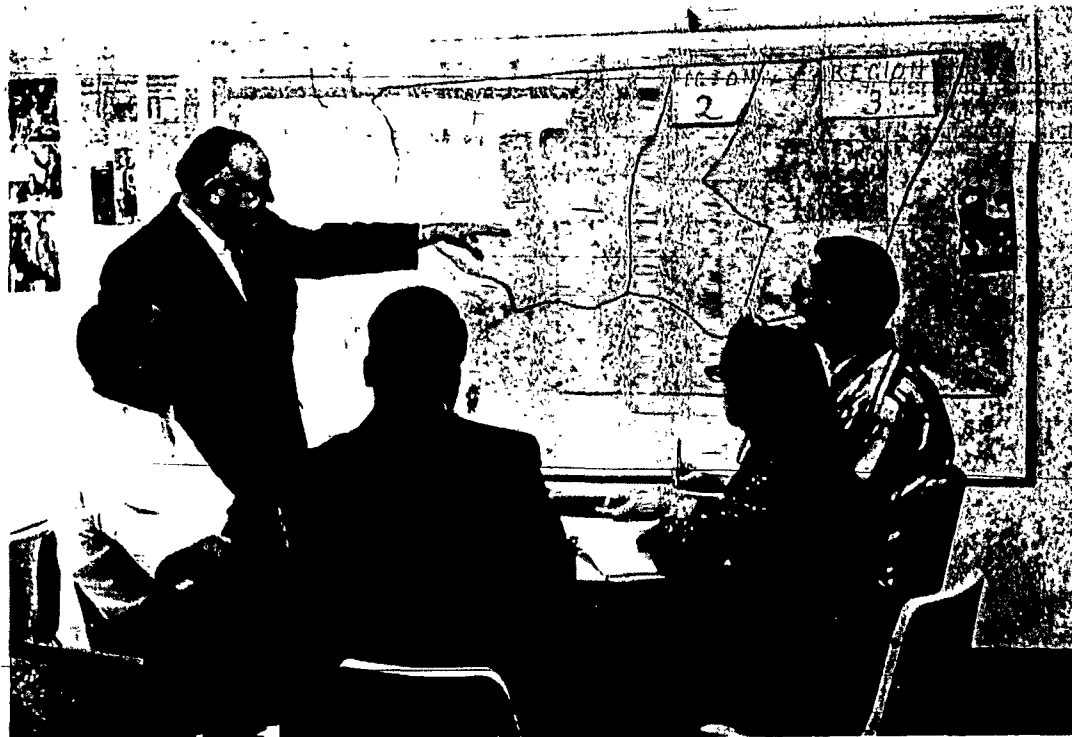
Susie has been with us for almost a year. On Easter Sunday she celebrated her first birthday. She is a beautiful little girl with big brown eyes and dark curly hair. Susie shares her playpen with her adorable little

foster brother Fritz who is 13½ months old.

I have enjoyed caring for all my babies. Every day brings new experiences and even though I hate to see them go, I know that when they are adopted their new family is having a dream realized. Although it is very hard to say goodbye, I know that very soon there will be another baby who needs me.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COMMUNITY CHEST TO AGENCIES OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Family Center	\$448,826
Genesee Settlement House	137,218
Catholic Youth Organization	111,815
Charles Settlement House	75,894
St. Ann's Home	64,177
De Paul Clinic	42,444
St. Joseph's Villa	24,463
	\$904,837
Total expenditures	\$4,758,654



The development of neighborhood councils for improvement of inner-city areas is an important function of the staff at Genesee Settlement House. This group is discussing their role for neighborhood leadership in projected rehabilitation of inner city. Two settlement houses, Genesee and Charles, under Catholic Charities direction have 90 per cent of their budgets furnished by Community Chest.



The Charles House, serving Rochester's west-side for 50 years offers programs in everything from woodshop (shown here) and homemaking to club activities and day camps. For the adults there are family counselling services, classes and neighborhood development activities. Community Chest pays for most of its budget.



Teenagers from Rochester high schools visit senior citizens at St. Ann's Home every day. Over 350 elderly people find a happy residence here but the home is not considered "terminal" or permanent any longer. Last year 86 residents, after fine medical care, physical and occupational therapy, returned to a full life with their families or in homes of their own choosing.



The De Paul Clinic works wonders for youngsters unable to adjust to adolescence. These children, suffering from acute anxieties and emotional difficulties, have weekly interviews with experienced psychologists and analysts. With newly-acquired self-image they learn to be comfortable in social situations and welcome their adolescence.



A quarter of a million people of all ages, races and creeds participated in the varied programs of the Catholic Youth Organization last year. Providing day camps and physical fitness facilities, job placements and parish youth programs, Catholic Charities serve healthy Rochester youth. Here boys are going to a gym class at the Columbus Civic Center.



St. Joseph's Villa on north Dewey Avenue cares for 116 children from 6 to 16 living in cottages in a beautiful, rural setting. Only a few are orphans — most serious need is home-like-atmosphere conducive to family-living that is temporarily unavailable to them with their own families. The Villa is a Red Feather agency which says "I care" in many ways a child can understand.