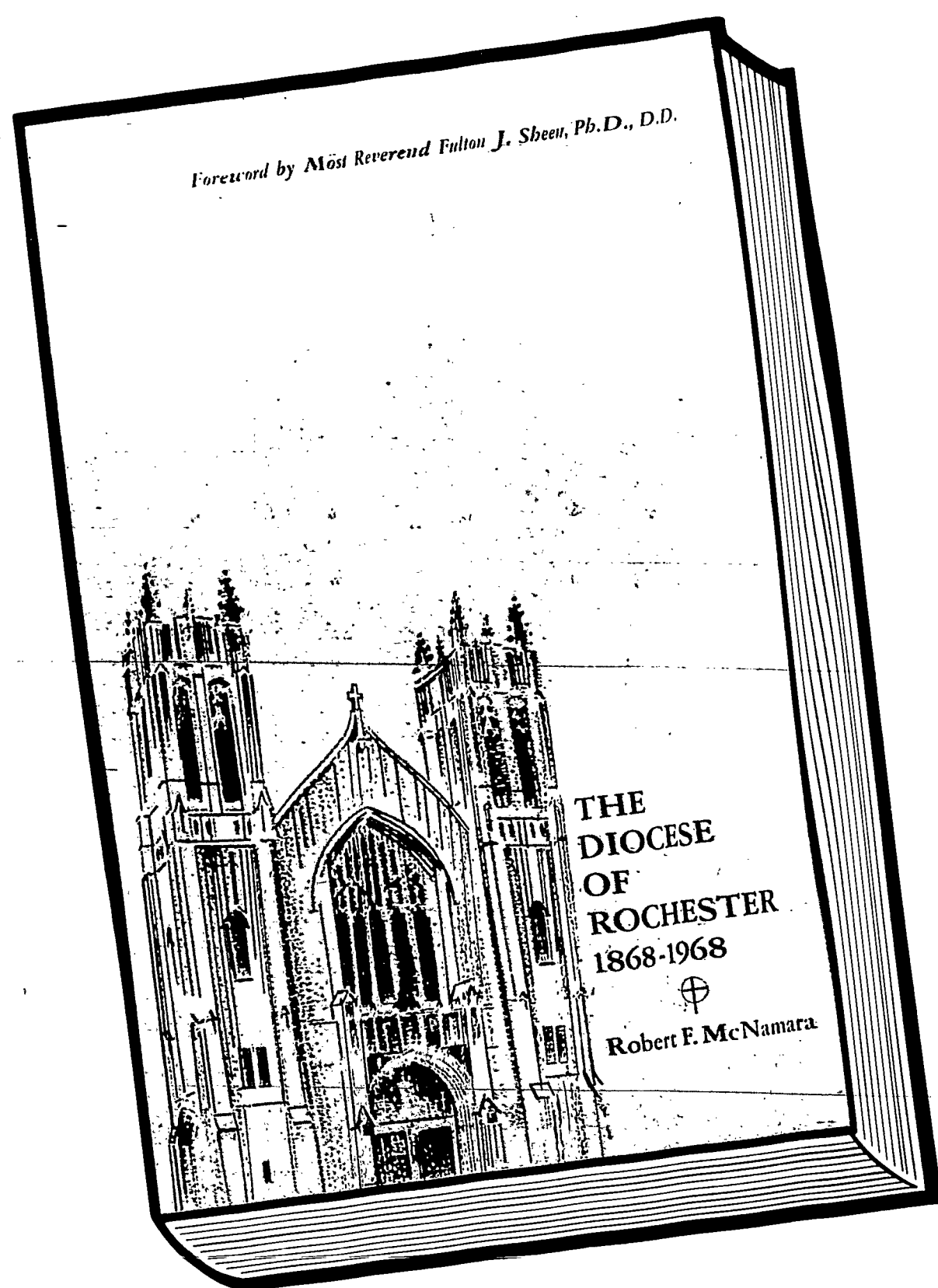


It's Complete . . . And all between these pages



The book illustrated above is a narrative of sweeping proportions that synthesizes the glorious history of the Diocese of Rochester. To read it and relish the way which Father Robert F. McNamara unveils the past is to have cause for joy in this centennial year.

We are proud of our part in the publication of this book as we are proud of our long association with many other important events in recent decades of diocesan history. We congratulate the Diocese of Rochester for one hundred years of grace-filled services to the People of God in these twelve counties. We pledge our efforts to make the future as fruitful as the past.

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## Catholic Charities Prepares For New Problems

Providing Happy Homes for Aged and Adolescents of Particular Concern

By FATHER RICHARD TORMEY, Editor, Courier-Journal

If human nature allegedly doesn't change, and bodies operate the same from one generation to the next, what different problems can "the next 100 years" bring to the care of Catholic Charities?

Talk with the directors of the diocesan Catholic Family Center and these anxious predictions register their zealous concern about the next few decades:

- Families of the middle and upper-class, although well-fed and housed, will increasingly suffer from pressures and tensions of the times so that more sophisticated counseling will be required. Counselors will work with the whole family to help a troubled individual member of the household.

- Going-out service, for diagnosis and treatment of inner-city families' troubles, will increase for people who won't bring their troubles to a downtown agency.

Rochester Catholic Family Center, already offering counseling aids from three neighborhood centers, hopes to open three more where the inner-city public needs them.

- Group counseling will be the big technique of the future: one trained counselor talking to a group with similar problems will help them interact to understand and solve their family or marital troubles.

- More day-care centers in the crowded neighborhoods will care for children of more and more mothers who want to work not simply to increase the family income, but to broaden their lives by "getting away from the neighborhood and their large family burdens for a while each day."

- Care of the senior citizens will become a major social work.

As the population of the aged increases and families grow more reluctant to keep elderly relatives, Catholic Family Center predicts that more government aid will be required to finance housing and care.

- The institutional "old folks' home" will become passe as society realizes that "congregate-living" in small boarding homes will offer the environment and degrees of self-help independence so vital for the aged's happiness.

- Parishes may begin to operate homes for the elderly as a



St. Ann's Home

Accommodations for the aged will be a major social need of the future.

cooperative project to help the aged remain in neighborhoods they know.

- Homes for adolescent girls, maladjusted or pre-delinquent, or just unhappy with their families, are needed in every community of the diocese.

- The Catholic Youth Organization does not want to be limited to an athletic program. It aspires to be a catalyst to help parishes form youth groups and establish programs of leadership training and social recreation for a whole parish.

Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, admits that the Church cannot meet all the "growing needs of the unhappy. The more his staff grows, the more people come to the offices in the Columbus Civic Center.

The diocesan charities structure includes: Catholic Family Center (dealing with adoptions, foster-care of children, unwed mothers, the aged, family counseling and immigrant problems), the Catholic Youth Organization, the DePaul Clinic, the Genesee Settlement House and Charles House for neighborhood service, St. Joseph's Villa and St. Ann's Home.

"Although we have offices in Auburn and Elmira equipped to do much that we do here, outside of Monroe County we are only able to help Catholics cooperate with local welfare districts," he said.

- Monsignor Mulcahy predicts

that many laymen will serve the charities of the future Church in policy-making roles.

"Laymen in our diocese for several decades have brought great stimulation and imagination to our local agencies. The continuing involvement of lay people and priests is needed on the welfare boards in all our communities," he says.

Miss Alice Attridge, supervisor of the Marriage Counseling service within the Catholic Family Center in Rochester, foresees churches doing more education work for their parishioners' family troubles.

"Parish discussion groups will be formed to study family problems", she believes. "They will welcome counsellors from our office to educate interested parishioners about the warning signs of family and marital unrest and what to do when trouble comes."

Father William G. Charbonneau, Family Center director, expects many large parishes may begin hiring their own full-time social workers to assist the parish priests by taking over some of the rectory-counseling and home-visiting.

"Pastoral counseling needs improving," he insists. "The people turn to their clergy for guidance with marriage and family grievances, but many priests—and they admit it—are ill-equipped, timid about techniques and easily discouraged when a case turns out to need lengthy treatment."

Miss Marie Weidman, respon-

sible for the problems of the aged which come to the Family Center, expects that growing concern for the "well-elderly" will mark social case work of the next decades.

"With a little help and the proper environment, many of our elderly, so lonely and shunted-off now, could take care of themselves—and they want to—if they could be given a home-like setting with a few other well-elderlies like themselves", Miss Weidman says.

"Perhaps some affluent parishes may begin to rent a few of those large, old homes which young families won't take and fit them out for a group of the elderly of the parish. The parish would be doing a worthy charity to offer housing to the aged and to make it possible for them to stay in their familiar neighborhood and not have to go to a remote nursing home or large institution".

Miss Katherine Wobus, in charge of the child welfare section of the Catholic Family Center, believes that imaginative experimental action to prevent situations that can bring unhappiness will become a major principal of future social case work.

An example of experimentation soon to develop here, Miss Wobus suggests, will be the neighborhood "home" set up for 5 or 6 adolescent girls, with a trained staff in residence ready to offer the girls protective guidance in a good atmosphere while they are still in school.



Many volunteers bring good cheer to residents in the active recreation program carried on at St. Ann's Home for the Aged. Page 43A. Courier-Journal Diocesan Centennial, Nov. 22, 1968