

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

2 Sections



## Water is for Cooling

The reflecting pool in Milwaukee's Civic Center Plaza is an oasis for a boy wandering over the baked concrete of a summer day.

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Courier-Journal

**Sunday Mass  
On TV  
Watch Chan. 10,  
Rochester  
at 8:30 A.M.  
every Sunday.**

Wednesday, June 24, 1970

## Parish Offers Land to State For Elderly

A high-rise apartment building providing nearly 150 living units for the elderly of the Town of Gates may soon be authorized by the State through the generosity of St. Theodore's Parish.

The parish has offered 10 acres of its own land to the New York State Division of Housing and has requested that a non-profit housing corporation be formed to build senior citizens' apartments.

The property is at 170 Spencerport Road, just west of the juncture of Lyell Ave and Howard Road. The proposed building, about 10 stories tall, would be directly north of the parish school and in the center of the 25 acres of parish land.

Father Gerald E. Dunn, pastor of St. Theodore's, announcing the parish's application to the State Housing officials to secure a preliminary site survey, said that the proposal had wide parochial and neighborhood approval.

"When we broached the idea from the pulpit and in our bulletin, asking for parish opinion, more than 100 people wrote favorable letters. And many senior citizens of the town have let us know they favor the project."

Father Dunn explained the serious need for housing for the elderly in Gates:

"Housing projects for old people do exist in the city of Rochester. But people in our neighborhood do not qualify and there are no county programs for housing the elderly which can help them."

When completed the apartment house will be a great boon for its residents, he said. "A bus-line going into downtown Rochester runs right by the door, a shopping plaza with a bank, department stores and many service-businesses is very close by, and in a few years the new Park-Ridge Hospital on Long Pond Road will be handy for the apartment."

Bishop Hogan, endorsing the donation of parish land, authorized Father Dunn to proceed with the negotiations, "because

I feel very strongly that the Church does have a responsibility to the elderly".

"One group of citizens particularly vulnerable to loneliness and neglect is the elderly," he said. "Many of them, in great need, have nowhere to turn because their families are gone, their friends are dead and they find themselves physically, economically and emotionally incapable of coping with the problems of growing old."

Bishop Hogan stipulated that "neither the parish nor the Diocese will have any responsibility for the project outside of making the initial donation of land." The corporation to be formed to proceed with the state-aided project will be non-profit, but will have representation by townspeople and parishioners.

Robert Barrett, of the Syracuse Diocese Catholic Charities staff, is consultant on the St. Theodore proposal. The Syracuse Diocese has already participated in a number of housing developments for the elderly where a gift of parish or diocesan land is the "seed money" to initiate a state activity.

Gates Town Supervisor Joseph Campbell is cooperating with Father Dunn and Mr. Barrett.

Next steps in the project, they said, are a survey of the donated land by state engineers, and test-borings before approval is given. Then the corporation is formed, architects are secured and the state authorizes construction.

Money for such developments for the elderly has already been appropriated by the state legislature and is ready for use when the individual project is approved.

Father Dunn spoke hopefully of integration of the future residents of the apartment into "community recreational activities and parish programs." Even though many of the elderly housed there will not be Catholics or parishioners, he indicated the parish will welcome them as "neighbors who must not be forgotten or neglected."

**HE'S RESPONSIBLE  
FOR 100,000 KIDS**

(Story on Page 13)