



Courier Journal photo by Lawrence E. Keefe

Receiving first pension benefits from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan are from left to right: Mrs. Leo Kane of Sacred Heart, Auburn; George Mathis, Holy Family, Rochester; Mrs. Helen C. O'Connor, St. Patrick's School, El-

mira; Raymond T. Brien, St. Francis, Rochester; Gertrude Clendenin, St. Patrick's, Elmira; and Arthur Taylor, Mother of Sorrows, Rochester. John A. Ritzenthaler, diocesan comptroller, happily looks on at right.

## Birthright

### Help for Problem Pregnancies

"We want to do everything possible to save lives."

This is the aim of the founders of Birthright-Rochester, a special confidential service, offering alternatives to abortion. Birthright Committee is non-sectarian, and includes doctors, lawyers, social workers, parents and clergy from all faiths.

Mrs. Nino Trunfio, chairman of the committee, explained that Birthright was formed to respond to two situations: women, both married and single, often face pregnancies for which they lack the emotional, financial and familial resources; they are not aware of the viable alternatives to abortion offered by many social service agencies in the area.

Birthright will offer help and referral services to any woman with a "problem pregnancy," Mrs. Trunfio said. As of July 6, any woman desirous of help can call the Birthright office. Trained volunteers will receive the call, assess the needs of the individual, arrange for pregnancy tests, family or psychiatric counseling if desired, and act as liaison between the individual and those agencies dealing with pre- and post-natal care and adoption.

There is no charge for any service; Birthright's operation is supported wholly by private donations of time, space, talents and money.

Mrs. J. Barry Jesmer, chairman of volunteers, emphasized

#### Where to Call

Birthright Phone Number: 716-328-8700  
Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weekdays; 24 hour record-o-fone to receive messages and give number of available volunteer, beginning July 6.

Birthright's preservation of the mother's anonymity. "Callers will not be required to give their names, but each case will have its own code number," Mrs. Jesmer said. "The location of our office will not be publicized to insure further privacy; we will give our address only to those who need our help."

The first service Birthright can provide is a sympathetic listener. Then, depending on the mother's decision Birthright can help in other ways. It can help provide maternity care through its referral relationships with Monroe County De-

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## 'A Great Day'

### Pension Payments Begin for Laity

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Diocesan lay employes this week began reaping the benefits of the Pension Plan established in May 1968. More than 100 retiring men and women received the first payments from the plan.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan called it a "great day in the history of the diocese."

To a group of six recipients, Bishop Hogan explained: "This is not a gift we are giving today, it is our debt to you who have given so much. You have

been, in a sense, overworked and underpaid but it seemed to be the only policy we could afford. I'm glad that now we can do what the Church has wanted to do for a long time.

"The great encyclicals of the Church," he continued, "have called for social justice, and now we are able to do something about it."

Bishop James E. Kearney's staff began the ball rolling on the plan when it hired Hart & Keenan (pension consultants)

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## Housing Problem Constant Despite Progress

Housing — perhaps the main cog in the ever-developing machinery to solve our social ills — is the subject of two Courier-Journal articles this week.



A centerfold photo-story depicts the progress of a project under way in the 3rd ward.

In the meanwhile, Father John Hempel of the Office of Human Development has some choice words to describe the recent Housing Week proclamation in the City of Rochester, Page 5A.

Other than that the "time-off" season of summer seems to be slowly settling in. At Perkinsville, "Old Home Day" produced a raft of happenings, from German cooking to grave blessings. Page 11B.

One of the Church's projects, under the Office of Human Development, the Charles Street Settlement House, lists its summer activities, Page 3B.

And although school is out for the vacation period, the Courier has an interview with Arnold Bentley, the new comptroller for Chemung County Consolidated Catholic Schools, Page 9B.

Many churches, particularly in resort areas, change their Mass schedules for the holiday months. Those who have reported such changes are listed on Page 1B.

And keeping in tune with the spirit of the season, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan uses his Page 3A column for an open letter to high school graduates.

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