

the empty office space where he hopes to start a  
Puerto Rican families served by his inner city agency.

## TURNING TO THE ROOTS OF SOCIAL WORK

In a return to the Hull House type of social work pioneered by Jane Addams, Catholic Family Center in Rochester has taken its family counseling program to the inner city. Three agencies staffed by CFC workers offer a core of family counseling services to families in the trenches of the inner city social crisis.

The four year old program reflects changes in the whole concept of social work as it has been developed in this country. No longer do social workers attempt to deal with family crises as though they arose solely from personal attitudes and psychological problems.

Tom Honold, the caseworker of CFC's office at St. Bridget's church on Gorham Street, says, "If you've got a drug addict in the family you're trying to help, you can't solve the family's problems by offering his mother psychological assistance. When a man is unemployed, his real problem is lack of a job, not the mental anguish it causes."

This growing concern with the larger causes of personal problems has brought new types of social workers into the field, young men who want to organize "their" people to help themselves. In the case of the Catholic Family Center agencies, it means that Richard Williams, caseworker of the office in the parish school of Immaculate Conception parish, has started a clean-up team of 21 local boys. Rafael Martinez, caseworker of the office in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish, in addition to casework, hopes to start a legal commune of three or four lawyers for Puerto Ricans. Tom Honold runs a clothing and furniture distribution center which is staffed by people coming from the community.

The relationship of their clients to the welfare bureaucracy occupies a great deal of time for all three agencies. "We act as a watchdog," explains Williams. Martinez says that the Monroe County Welfare offices, which are on Westfall Road, "an upper-middle class neighborhood," don't serve his Puerto Rican clients. "Here the people who speak Spanish don't know how to travel to the Social Services Building," and "there is nothing in the inner city where its clients are."

Typical of these agencies is the one at Immaculate Conception, where Williams estimates that 300 — 400 families receive counseling on an individual basis, where unwed mothers get advice, and where the clean-up program originated.

Photos and Text by Laurence E. Keefe



A clean-up crew of neighborhood youths sweeps the parking lot of a Clarissa St. store as part of summer employment program initiated by CFC caseworker Dick Williams, shown below facing the camera during a talk with Lubbie Edwards (left) one of the foremen of the crew which tours the neighborhood.

