



All Together Now

Flautist Maria Pabalan, cellist Chris Pegis, and timpanist Mark Yancich get ready for the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra's first concert of the year, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. at Monroe Community College's Little Theater. The RPYO, which trains youths of ages 12-18 who are interested in music as a profession, will give an ambitious program of selections by Ravel, Prokofiev, Bruch, and Brahms. The 90-member orchestra has on its roster 11 students of Catholic schools: Chris and Jonathan Pegis of Blessed Sacrament; Kathy Zimpher of Our Lady of Lourdes; Bruce Finchley and Lawrence Nugent of Nazareth Hall; Michael Wilke of Bishop Kearney High; Frank Pabalan (concertmaster) of McQuaid High; Beth Schneider, Diane Betsinger, and Bridgid Hayes of Mercy High; and Maria Pabalan of St. Agnes High. Tickets are available from members or at the door.



Catholic Charities Scores Housing Freeze

Washington, D.C. (RN) — The decision of the Nixon Administration to declare a moratorium on housing subsidies affecting "mainly poor families and elderly" was deplored here by the National Conference of Catholic Charities Commission on Housing.

In a statement, the commission "deplores the precipitous and unilateral action taken by the Administration on Jan. 10 in declaring a moratorium on approving new commitments for housing subsidies and certain community development grants."

"The principal victims of this action," the statement continues, "are the thousands of poor and near poor families and elderly people who for many reasons must rely on subsidized housing for a decent place to live."

The commission statement said the number of people in this category is increasing every day. "This is due, among other things to the rapid rate at which housing available to them in the cities is deteriorating and becoming unfit for human habitation, and to the large amount of housing which is being vacated and eventually destroyed to make way for roads, streets, commercial buildings and luxury apartments."

"With respect to housing," the statement asserts, "the needy are being squeezed from all sides and their only release valve is subsidized housing provided by local public housing authorities and non-profit private sponsors."

"Among such sponsors are Catholic Church-related organizations which, during a three-year period ending Dec. 31, 1971, constructed 12,000 housing units and had \$140 more under con-

struction or in the planning stage with the aid of subsidies."

Commission members, in their statement, noted that plans for hundreds of new units are on the drawing board but will have to be put away, dashing the hopes for decent housing of many young, middle-aged and older people.

"In addition," it continues, "there is the frustration of many thousands of concerned persons who have devoted their time, efforts, skills and money to de-

velop housing plans and now must scrap them.

"This moratorium is viewed as an indication of the lack of concern of the Administration for the housing needs of the poor and near poor who must rely on federal government assistance programs to provide housing at prices they can afford to pay."

The moratorium, according to the Catholic agency, "strikes a blow" at the Administration's "proclaimed efforts and desire to weld a partnership between the private voluntary sector and

the federal government in providing for the needy of the country."

It will also have a "staggering adverse effect" on the nation's economy and unemployment situation, it claimed.

"The NCCC commission on Housing welcomes a 'searching evaluation' of the federal housing programs as the Administration promises, but it does not believe it is necessary to impose a moratorium while making the evaluation."

"Furthermore," the statement concludes, "the Administration has four years to make the evaluation and propose to Congress any changes in the law deemed appropriate. The poor of the country who desperately need housing should not be made the victims of the lack of such action for the past four years."

Chairman of the commission is the Rev. Richard J. Leisen of St. Cloud, Minn. Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran is executive secretary of the national Conference of Catholic Charities.

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Wednesday, January 24, 1973

Page 12