

*"... the many agencies of Catholic Charities that depend heavily for financial support from the Community Chest."*

**St. Anne's Home**

**St. Joseph's Villa**

**C.Y.O.**

**Camp Stella Maris**

**Office of Family Life**

**DePaul Clinic**

**Genesee Settlement House**

**Charles Settlement House**

**St. Martin De Porres**

**St. Elizabeth Guild**

**Auburn Catholic Family Center**

**Elmira Catholic Family Center**

Too often we see among Catholics, Christians, and for that matter, all people, a polarization of the function of the Church. In effect some say that if the Church is to have any meaning to people, then it must concentrate its energies and resources in providing human services.

On the other hand, and I suppose in reaction to the above, there are those who restrict the function of the Church to what they call its "spiritual" concern, and relegate the social problems to government.

I think if the Church is to be true to itself, then it must endeavor to fulfill all of its functions. No question there is a social mission but that mission makes sense only as it is integrally incorporated in the preaching of the good news and the celebration of God's loving gift to man.

In this vein of thinking, I see two things. First, the Church cannot claim an exclusive right in the field of social welfare; it must respect the autonomy of others in society, both organizations and individuals alike. Thus the Church should not establish parallel structures such that compete one against the other. Rather, in recognizing that others have human care as a right and obligation, it will cooperate with them. It is in this spirit that the member agencies of Catholic Charities support and work with the United Community Chest and its member agencies.

Secondly, the Church in carrying out its social mission must be both catholic and Catholic. It must not restrict and narrow its services to its "members", no more than Christ did! Yet, it must also incorporate a Christian and Catholic philosophy that pervades the work being done. The Church must always, even in its social mission, preach Christ and celebrate Him. This is our proud heritage and we joyfully and eagerly invite all to share in it.

Gratefully to all,

*Father D'Arrigo*



Photo by Dave Witbeck

### **A Remembrance in Your Will**

The agencies of the Catholic Charities increase their services each year. Consequently they will continue to grow to serve more people.

You can take a vital part in this mission by remembering them in your last will and testament.

Consult your attorney or trust officer. The legal title is "Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester," 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York 14604. Telephone 546-7220.