

# Hope Village And a Torn Community

Hope Village, A Cooperative Community, Inc., has been trying since 1969 to start building 25 single-family homes to be owned cooperatively by 25 low-income families in the Wayne County town of Huron.

In December, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing (NCADH) jointly filed a class-action suit against Huron town officials. The suit charged them with violating the civil rights of the mostly black persons of Hope Village by practicing housing discrimination in the passage of zoning laws and denial of building permits.

Town officials have denied the charges, claiming that the main issue is one of water and sewer facilities, and that town officials did not realize the Hope Villagers were predominantly black until NAACP and NCADH filed the suit.

The project has been of importance of some Catholics since its beginning. Father Raymond Wahl, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Auburn, was chairman of the Hope Village committee until Hope Village recently elected its own board. He is now honorary chairman. Father John Cavanaugh, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany in Sodus and St. Rose of Lima Mission in Sodus Point, has made church facilities available for Hope Village meetings and organized meetings of Sodus and Wolcott clergy which led to statements of endorsement for the project. He has also preached on the project and written in favor of it in church bulletins.

The Ladies of St. Rose have taught in the Hope Village home management courses and visited homes, collecting information needed for application to the Farmers Home Administration.

A Farmers Home Loan will be used for construction if Hope Village wins the law suit. An interest-free loan of \$107,000 has already been granted Hope Village by the Housing Assistance Council of Washington, D.C. This loan has been used for land purchase, site development, and other preconstruction expenses.

To provide our readers with both sides of this issue, the Courier-Journal sent staff writer Bonita Baldwin and photographer Susan McKinney to Huron, Sodus and Wolcott to interview principals in the dispute. Their report is on Page 23.

## Different Where It Counts

My dear People:

This year's poster announcing Catholic Schools Week which we observe next week, February 2 to 8, portrays a smiling Jonah standing in the mouth of the whale. The caption reads, "Catholic Schools: Different Where It Counts." God had commissioned Jonah to preach to the inhabitants of Nineveh. He felt unequal to the task and fled. But God rescued him from the sea and brought him back. The story has a happy ending. Jonah did preach and the inhabitants of Nineveh were converted.

Catholic schools and parochial school teachers sometimes feel unequal to the task of nourishing the faith in the lives of our young people. Yet, that is their responsibility, and for people of faith that is why Catholic schools are "different where it counts."

Living and sharing the Gospel of Christ is an important privilege and obligation for any Christian, and especially for those who contribute to the formal teaching mission of the Church. On this occasion of Catholic Schools Week, I join the entire Catholic community in complimenting the teachers and students of our Catholic schools who work together to build a community of faith, love and service.

With a blessing of appreciation, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Joseph L. Hogan*

†Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

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### Reaching Out

Joseph FitzGibbons, who is one of 12 Eucharistic ministers at Holy Cross parish in Charlotte, distributes Holy Communion to the parish's sick and shut-ins. In the photo at right, FitzGibbons has taken the Host from the pyx, and wears a cross which Father Robert Fennessy, the pastor, presented to each of the Eucharistic ministers at the time of their installation. FitzGibbons transfers a host from the ciborium to the pyx and offers Communion in the photo below and at the bottom of the page. An example of how laymen are being called on more and more to help pastors in service to their parishioners.



Photos by Susan McKinney

