

House of Hospitality Seeks Citizen Support

By MARTIN TOOMBS

In the midst of spiraling costs of social service agencies, one organization, supplying the basic necessity of food, continues as it has for 34 years without interruption and without government money.

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, located at 402 South Ave. in Rochester, provides food for an average of 40 persons each day. Donations from various institutions make this possible. But the donations have become lighter and less regular.

The house therefore is working on a new system. Individuals, families or groups are being asked to sign up to make donations on a monthly basis. They would call St. Joseph's on a specific day each month to find out what was needed. They would buy the food, and get it to the house within a couple days. The estimated cost for a day's food is \$10.

St. Joseph's hopes to sign up people for each day of the month, ensuring a continuing supply of food. Anyone interested in joining the program should contact Jonathan Bishop at St. Joseph's; the telephone number is 232-9745.

The house also plans to ask the parochial schools in the area to participate in a program that would involve the students once each

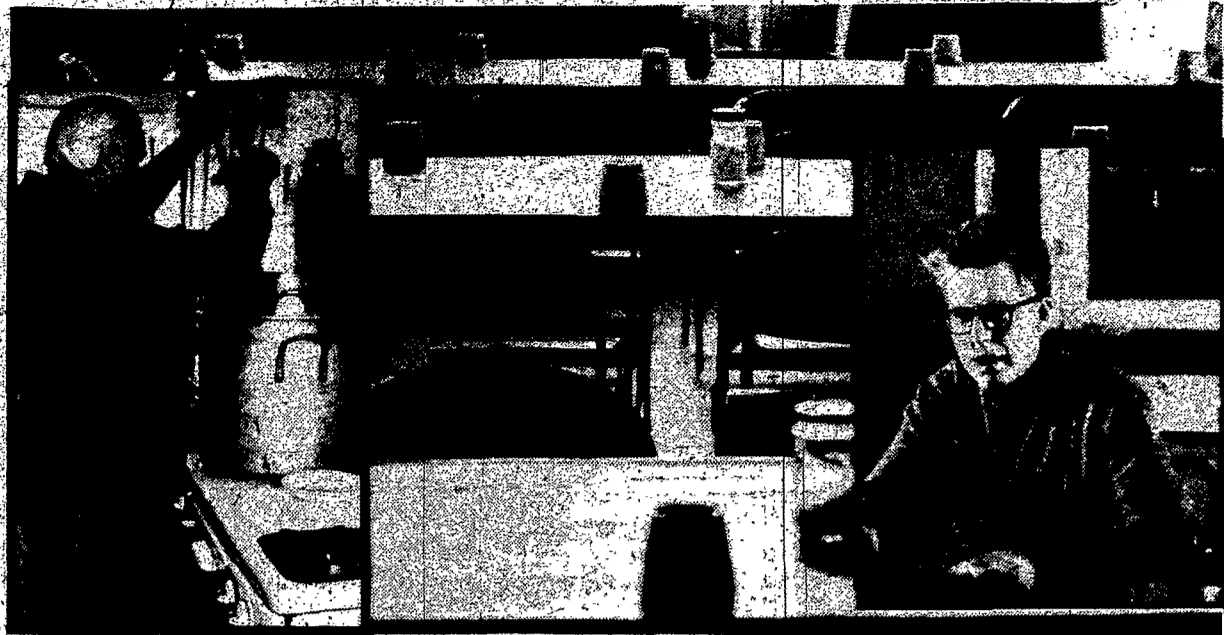
year. Letters would be sent home to the parents, and the students would be asked to bring cans of food to school for the house. Art Farrand, president of St. Joseph's, sees this as a worthwhile program, instilling in the young an awareness of hunger in the community. At St. Joseph's, the donated food is placed in a 30-gallon pot, and cooked for several hours. The resultant stew is available to anyone who comes into the House for the serving at 2:30 each afternoon, Monday through Saturday.

The stew supplies more than one meal for many, as several regulars bring jats for the leftovers.

Some of the men buy food from their own resources and contribute to the common pot. Bishop points out that for many of the men, the house provides their only social setting, and they begin to come in an hour before the meal time, to sit, watch television and talk.

Farrand noted that the house is a "charity based on personalism," and that they don't ask questions of either those who come there to eat. For that reason, he said, St. Joseph's is not interested in government money, and the inherent government interference and requests for information.

Another function of the house is to provide clothing. Again, they rely on donations. Seminarians from St. Bernard's come in on



The tables are ready for the 40 persons who come to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality each day. Preparing the day's stew is staff member Edward Gladding (left). Jonathan Bishop (right) is the coordinator of the new food support program.

Tuesdays to distribute the available clothing.

The house is not just a haven for unemployed men. Women, and sometimes families who are in need of something to eat come to St. Joseph's.

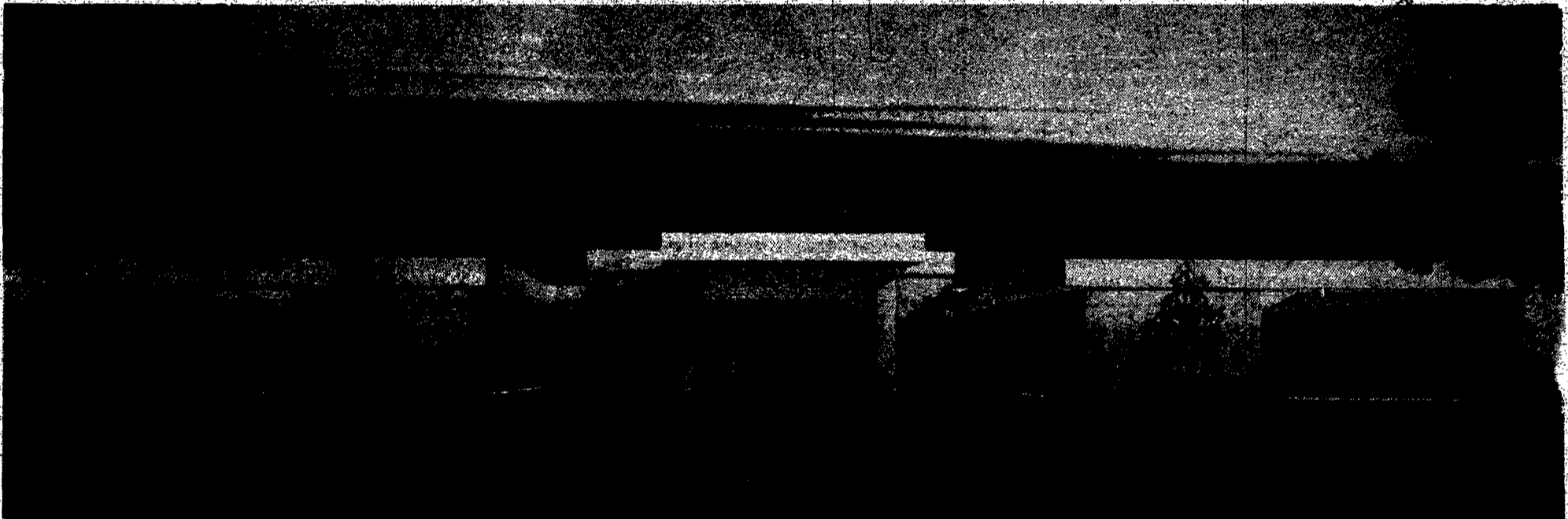
The religious programs at the house are optional. A Mass is usually celebrated on Saturdays before the meal, in the chapel on the second floor. Several priests in the city visit the house.

Other needs of those who come to St. Joseph's are handled on an individual basis. Transportation for medical care, or help with the Veterans Administration or Social Services can be provided.

The staff consists of men who at first came there to eat, and volunteers who have other occupations or sources of income. Bishop is a Cornell professor on sabbatical leave; Farrand works in public relations. Four staff

members live at the house, receiving no pay.

St. Joseph's would like a much larger portion of the community to work with them. As part of the Catholic Worker movement, they want to educate the community to the plight of some of its members as well as provide the basic necessities for those who need them. Any person or group is invited to participate in the programs.



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