

St. Mary's Notes 125

Friends and parishioners of St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the present church on Sunday, Sept. 17. A special concelebrated Mass will be offered at 12:15 p.m. Following the Mass Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will bless the newly refurbished church bells.

45th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of the present pastor, Msgr. James C. McNiff.

A reception and dinner will follow the church rites at 2 p.m. at the Mapledale Party House.

St. Mary's is the city's oldest parish east of the Genesee River. It was founded in July of 1834. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on Sept. 18,

1853.

Msgr. McNiff, former chancellor and one-time vicar general of the diocese, was ordained on Sept. 5, 1944. He has been pastor of St. Mary's since 1949. His pastorate is the longest in the history of the church.

Information and reservations for the festivities are available through the rectory at 15 South St.

At the same time, the parishioners will celebrate the



Oktoberfest

Planning for this weekend's opening of Rochester's Oktoberfest are (standing, left to right) Father Winfried Kellner, Walter Schnabel, Father Charles Bennett, (seated) Leo Saeum, Vitas Stuhler and Killian Schmitt. A German-language Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 3 p.m. followed by a procession to the festival grounds.

Housing Program Rejected By City Commission

By MICHAEL GRODEN

The Rochester Planning Commission denied a permit to the Catholic Family Center (CFC) for a proposed "Enriched Housing Program for the Elderly" last week. The action ended a sometimes heated debate between CFC and several neighbors living near the proposed site on 21 Buckingham St.

and painting of the exterior, had already been accomplished.

Catherine Wobus, casework director for CFC, reminded those present that the house would now be occupied by elderly residents which would eliminate problems that existed when the adolescent program was in operation.

remain in a community atmosphere and stay out of nursing homes, was "the way to go" in caring for the elderly.

CFC officials are now meeting to decide what should be done with the property.

The planning commission voted the proposal down 5-4.

Maurice Tierney diocesan director of Catholic Charities, Catholic Family Center's parent organization, said that he was "very disappointed" with the commission's decision. He is convinced that the Enriched Housing Program, which would provide care for six to eight individuals enabling them to

Catholic Family Center owns the house which had previously served as a home for wayward adolescent girls.

At a hearing August 7, six residents of the Buckingham Street area complained to Planning Commission members that CFC was very lax in their management of the home.

They cited poor upkeep of the house's exterior and failure to cut the grass which one resident said had grown to nearly four feet high.

In addition to poor upkeep neighbors stated that CFC had been negligent during the time the adolescent girls program was in operation. They stated that complaints regarding "two vicious dogs," threats from the girls to area children and calling the police "at least once a week" were ignored by CFC officials.

Jane Johnson, one who spoke against the proposal added that although she was "very sympathetic with the problems of the elderly" that area had more than its share of homes being used for purposes other than private residence.

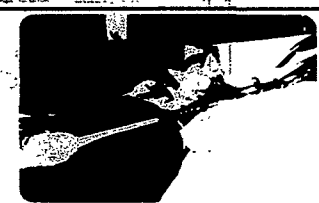
James Maloney, executive director for Catholic Family Center, admitted "past problems" at 21 Buckingham St. and assured the commission it would not happen again.

He said the enrichment program would "fill an important gap in services to the elderly and would provide an alternative to institutionalizing the well frail elderly." He added that money had been provided for the house's upkeep and that repairs on the house, including a new roof, gutters

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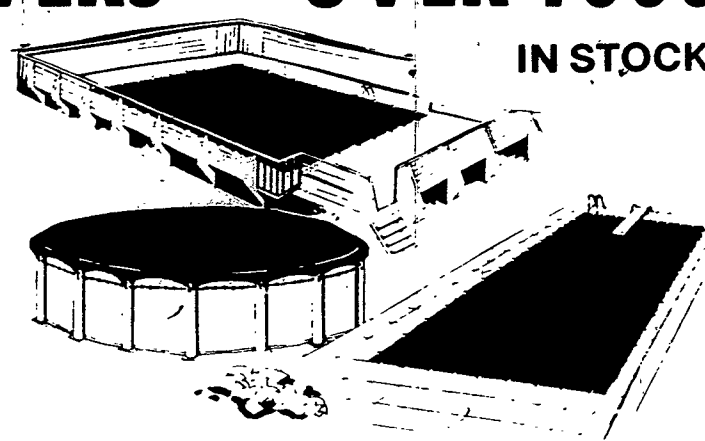
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