

# Community lauds apartment complex founder

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The 11-story Urban Park Apartments are a towering beacon of pride for the city's southwest side, according to Jacquelyn Dobson, diocesan director of the Office of Black Ministries.

Due to extensive security, Dobson said, Urban Park has a low crime rate. The building is not scarred by graffiti. And such initiatives as a computer-training program will help Urban Park residents with personal development skills.

Many of these initiatives can be credited to the vision of Dobson's father, the late James A. Dobson, a guiding force behind the founding and upkeep of Urban Park.

"His belief was that every living person should have adequate, clean and safe housing," Jacquelyn Dobson said.

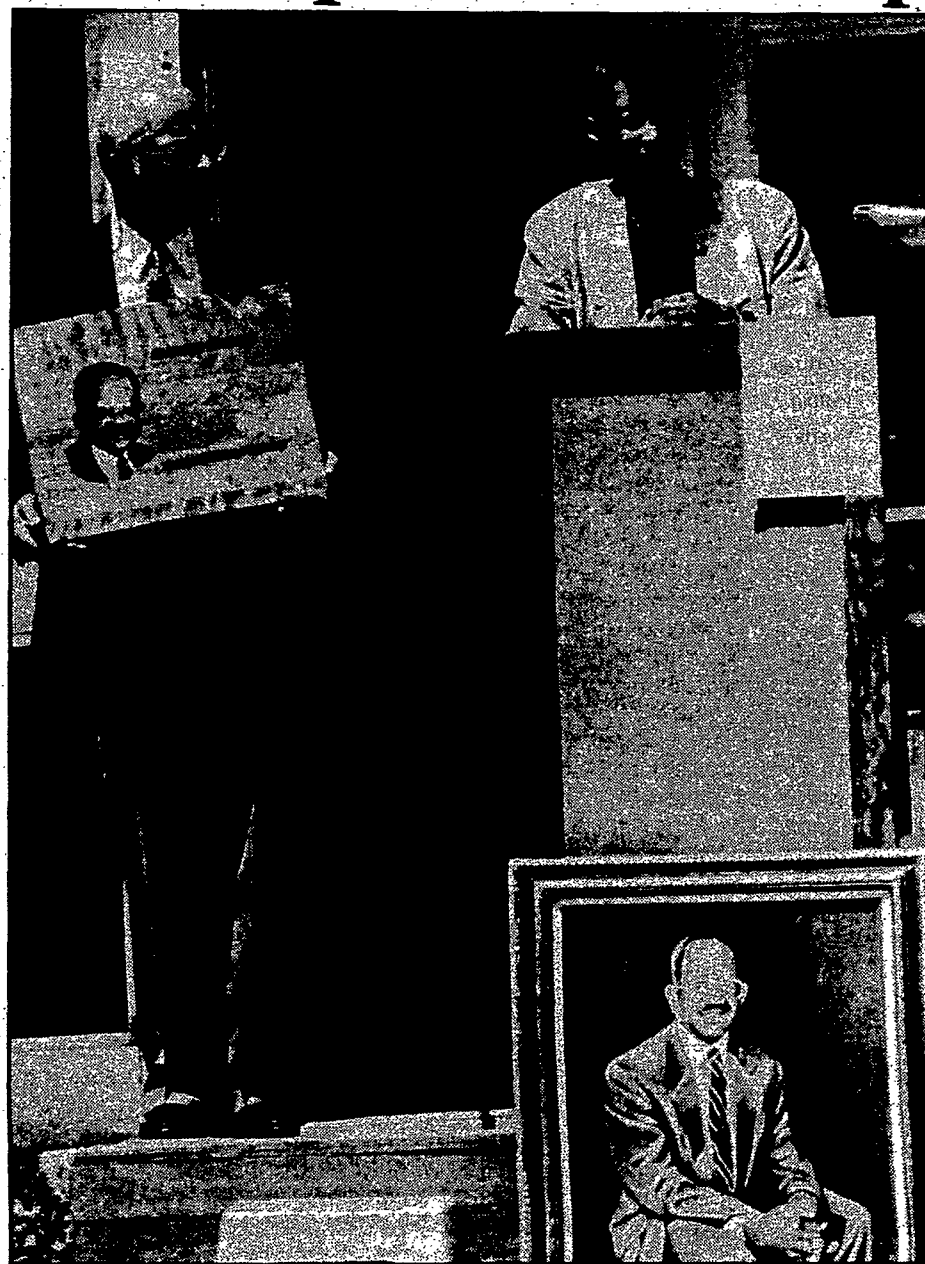
On the morning of May 30, the complex was officially retitled the James A. Dobson Urban Park Apartments. Approximately 150 people turned out to honor Dobson, who died in March 1997.

One guest speaker at the dedication was Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson Jr., who declared that of many events occurring throughout Rochester that weekend, "None are more important than this occasion."

"I get the feeling we are standing on sacred ground," added Father P. Paul Brennan, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Auburn.

Three decades ago, Father Brennan worked closely with Dobson while serving as assistant pastor at Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church, where Dobson was a parishioner; and as chaplain of the Catholic Interracial Council, to which Dobson also belonged. It was during this period that Dobson began his drive to create quality affordable housing.

The effort took years, Father Brennan acknowledged, as Dobson and other organizers negotiated arrangements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The priest said he recalled "many days when (it seemed) this



Wilfred Kenney, I.C. Housing Development Fund Board Member of the James A. Dobson Urban Park Apartments, holds a memorial plaque and Janelle Y. McClain, Urban Park Complex Manager, speaks during dedication ceremonies May 30 to name the complex in honor of Dobson. Below the lectern is a portrait of Dobson that was unveiled at the dedication. The plaque and the portrait will both hang in the lobby of the apartments.

project would not go forward." Dobson helped establish the I.C. Housing Development Fund Co., Inc., a non-profit organization that still oversees Urban Park's operation. Through I.C. Housing, Dobson's dream became reality when Urban Park opened in 1972.

In a letter to fellow I.C. Housing board members around the time of the opening, Dobson wrote: "I know of no greater reward than to know that some children will go to bed at night without fear of the roaches and rats. And that some parents will begin to lose the fear of their children being poisoned by eating the cracked plaster."

Jacquelyn Dobson recalled that while growing up, she was not allowed to refer to Urban Park as "the projects." Her father, she said, felt the term was derogatory.

She added that her father sought to instill similar high standards in Urban Park tenants.

"He would tell them, 'This is your home. This is where you should live — with pride,'" Jacquelyn Dobson said.

Dobson was employed for 34 years by the state Department of Taxation and Finance, retiring in 1993. He remained actively involved in the management and operation of Urban Park over the years, serving as board president and chair of I.C. Housing's long-range planning committee.

He continued to visit Urban Park daily until shortly before his death, Jacquelyn Dobson said. He also lobbied with HUD to gain funding for a computer training program that will be offered in the near future through the I.C. Housing Skills Training Center. In addition, Dobson sought support for resident programs to benefit the elderly and youth, as well as a job placement program.

"This (Urban Park) was his baby," Jacquelyn Dobson commented.

Urban Park, located at 150 Van Auker St., contains 154 units. Occupancy is targeted toward people with low to moderate incomes. Jacquelyn Dobson noted that most tenants are African American, but that Urban Park is open to people of all ethnic backgrounds.

## Obituaries

### Robert L. Tarnow; diocesan council member

Robert L. Tarnow, 73, a former resident of Seneca Falls and a founding member of the diocesan Stewardship Council, died June 2, 1998, in the University of Pittsburgh (Pa.) Medical Center.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Father David Gramkee, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, concelebrated his funeral Mass June 8 at St. Patrick's.

Born in Rochester, Mr. Tarnow attended Sacred Heart Cathedral School and Holy Cross and Sacred Heart Cathedral parishes. He earned a physics degree at Oberlin College and eventually became chief executive officer (1973-83) and chairman (1978-95) of Goulds Pumps of Seneca Falls. Mr. Tarnow was a World War II Marine veteran. He served on the Stewardship Council from 1989 to 1995.

"He was a joy to be around," said Mary Consler, the diocese's director of major gifts. "He was just very generous with his time. He had wonderful ideas."

"I was a great admirer of his," remarked James D. Ryan of the Stewardship Council. "He was succinct, genuine and a real gentleman ... He had it all. That's probably why he did so well in business."

Noting that Mr. Tarnow started at Goulds as an engineer trainee in 1951, Thomas McDermott, Goulds' CEO from 1994 to 1997, said, "In my mind he will always be 'Mr. Goulds Pumps.'"

"Bob was a very forceful, very direct person who was incapable of playing any gamesmanship, if you know what I mean. He was incapable of deception or anything like that. ... His openness and honesty

endeared him to so many people," explained McDermott, a Stewardship Council member.

In recent years, Mr. Tarnow and his wife of 48 years, Patricia Cobb Tarnow, spent summers on Cape Cod and winters in Naples, Fla.

Her husband had recently undergone a kidney transplant, Mrs. Tarnow said. "The surgery was very successful, but his old heart just gave out."

In addition to his wife, Mr. Tarnow is survived by three daughters and four sons, all living outside of New York state; 13 grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Marilyn Lohwater of Rochester; one brother; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, David, in 1974. Burial was to be in South Chatham, Mass.

### Msgr. Charles Dollen, Rochester native, writer; 72

Msgr. Charles J. Dollen, a Rochester native and prolific author who served in the Diocese of San Diego, died June 5, 1998, in Poway, Calif., of heart failure. He was 72.

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. June 20 at St. Christopher's Church, 3350 Union St., North Chili, where his brother, Father Bernard F. Dollen, is pastor.

Msgr. Dollen attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and completed his seminary training at Immaculate Heart Seminary in El Cajon, Calif. He was ordained for San Diego May 5, 1954.

Msgr. Dollen was the founding director of the library at San Diego College for Men — now the University of San Diego — from 1956 to 1965.

Msgr. Dollen published his first book, a children's story about the angel Gabriel, in 1963. He went on to write a total of 48 books, the last of which, *Prayer Book of the Kings* was published in March. In addition, he was a contributing editor and columnist for the magazine, *The Priest*.

In 1973 he became the founding pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Poway, serving the parish until he retired in 1996. He was

elevated to the rank of monsignor in 1985. He was also a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

In addition to Father Dollen, Msgr. Dollen is survived by his mother, Cecilia Margaret Pheiffer Kelly of Rochester; stepbrothers and sisters-in-law Edward and Beverly Kelly, and David and Barbara Kelly, all of Rochester; and nieces and nephews.

Donations in Msgr. Dollen's memory be made to St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 867, Poway, Calif., 92074, or to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

## Recognizing

★ Sister Rosemary St. Peter, SSJ, and John Meisch received the 1998 Lumina-Lux Awards, given annually to alumni by the Nazareth Schools. Sister St. Peter, who graduated from Nazareth Academy in 1947, and Meisch, who graduated from Nazareth Hall in 1950, were presented the awards at the Lumina-Lux Awards Dinner held May 12, in the Bausch & Lomb Wintergarten, Rochester.

## Correction

Dr. Rose Marie Beston's name was misspelled in the May 28 *Catholic Courier* ("Nazareth given \$1 million to create chair honoring Msgr. Shannon").

A Bishop Kearney High School student was incorrectly identified in a photo caption on the June 4 *On the Move* page. The person identified as "Dear Dave" was actually Tom Kryger, a BK senior. The *Courier* regrets the errors.

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