

## Church Plans Housing

# Cardinal Urges Coalition To Meet D.C. Urban Ills

By William R. MacKaye  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle urged creation yesterday of a Washington urban coalition to meet the challenge of the urban crisis.

At a press conference, the Cardinal:

- Pledged the support of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese to a soon-to-be-launched drive to raise a \$2 million Housing Development Fund.

- Said that church officials are planning a 1150-unit housing project on a 15-acre tract at 4th and Edgewood Streets ne., the site now occupied by St. Vincent's Home and School.

- Announced that the Archdiocesan Office of Urban Affairs, headed by the Rev. Geno Baroni, will back two rehabilitation projects for low-income housing.

- Said that the Archdiocese and the Presbytery of Washington City (United Presbyterian) will pool funds to remodel a building at 1419 V st. nw. for use as an urban affairs office. The Presbyterian body will provide \$55,000 for the job, which Cardinal O'Boyle estimates will cost \$100,000.

- Announced the launching of an extensive educational program designed to make city and suburban Catholics sensitive to each others' needs.

Cardinal O'Boyle expanded by saying that area clergy would exchange pulpit visits, followed by special seminars and meetings for laymen "to promote a better understanding of urban affairs and community relations."

"The aim of the church and therefore of the Washington Archdiocese," said the Cardinal, "must be to build a society which will afford the ordinary citizen and every citizen the opportunity to pursue his salvation in conditions of life that are not debasing and explosive, but human and encouraging."

At one point, he observed, "We're not playing Lady Bountiful . . . We've got an obligation to do this."

The Archdiocese's efforts in terms of housing will include an unspecified contribution to the Housing Development Fund.

Such a fund is necessary to finance Government-subsidized housing projects here. A fund of \$2 million might provide the basis for 40,000 new low- and moderate-income housing units in the area.

One group already pursuing Federal aid is the Housing Development Corp., headed by the Rev. Channing Phillips of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Phillips' group, which has access to \$100,000 in capital, currently is sponsoring construction or rehabilitation of 2000 housing units.

Mr. Phillips was at the press conference yesterday, as were two officials of the proposed Fund. They are John Nevius, a lawyer who is one of the appointees to the new City Council, and Reuben Clark, also a lawyer.

Clark pointed out that the shortage of equity capital—"front money"—now in the hands of the Housing Development Corp. and similar groups has limited the area's ability to take advantage of the low cost loans available under the loans to nonprofit corporations section of the Federal Housing Act.

The proposed housing at the St. Vincent's site would be financed under that rent subsidy section—Section 221 (D) 3 and would provide a mix of apartments for the elderly, public housing units and nonprofit dwellings for families of low and moderate income.

The Archdiocese is involving itself in three other housing programs.

A group of laymen organized in a group known as Sursum Corda, Inc., working with

St. Aloysius Church and Gonzaga High School, already has secured Federal support for a \$3.7 million, 199-unit housing development off North Capitol Street in the Northwest One urban renewal area.

The other two projects include one elsewhere in Northeast One and the other—in cooperation with five non-Catholic churches and three synagogues—on Capitol Hill.

The Urban Affairs office will be part of the plant of SS. Paul and Augustine Parish. The first two floors of the building will be converted into a community center.

Upper floors are expected to provide space for such operations as Father Baroni's office, the Metropolitan Ecumenical Training Center and the Presbytery's office of urban mission.