

Your Church Is at Your Service

by the Rev. Clarence Seidenspinner

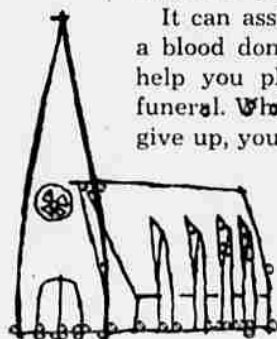
WHEN HAROLD AND DORIS moved to Canbury, they found it impossible to get a house or apartment to live in. Since they were good churchgoers, Doris finally proposed, "Why not visit First Church, which we intend to join? Maybe they can help us."

The pastor and church secretary met them with a smile, made them feel at home, and promised to try to locate living quarters. Within a few days, the church found a pleasant flat for Harold and Doris. To make them feel further at home, the pastor and his wife picked them up for an evening drive in the country and a friendly snack afterward.

This is just one example of the many ways a church can help you solve personal problems—whatever your faith.

It can assist you to find a job, a baby-sitter, a blood donor, a physician, or a nurse. It can help you plan for that wedding, baptism, or funeral. When the regular employment agencies give up, your pastor often will be able to locate a job that will give you bargaining power again.

Tom Granger was an engineer with professional contacts throughout the country. When his job folded up, however, neither he nor his agencies were able to spot another, because he was over 50 years old. In desperation, he went to his pastor and within a week he had an engineering job. It was not the top slot Tom would have liked, but it kept him in the field and later led to a better job.



feel at home in your community, whether you are a newcomer or an old-timer:

Visit your pastor and tell him you want to become acquainted. He will ask compatible people to watch for you. Sit in the same pew each Sunday so people know you as a regular churchgoer. Visit the social and public meetings scheduled for your particular age group. Be friendly when you get there. Soon you will be going around with the others. Many churches have dinner clubs for young adults which specialize in promoting friendliness.

Have you skills and interests which you would like to express, such as the desire to sing? Your church will give you such opportunities for expression. If you sing, the church may offer you a place in the choir and schedule you for solo appearances at club programs.

If you enjoy cooking, there are dinners to prepare and food-interest groups to attend. If you like to speak in public, there are numerous programs which need good speakers. Classes await those who want to teach. Various clubs and groups are always seeking leaders with administrative ability.

Your church can even help you continue your education. If you have never had the opportunity of going to high school or college, regular participation in the activities of a modern church or synagogue will inform your mind and broaden your appreciations. One active member of a vigorous rural church checked with an educator and found that within 20 years she had received a fine liberal-arts college education right in her parish church!

Best of all, your church can help you feel at

Whether newcomers or long-standing members, you can call on your church for more than spiritual guidance. Pastor, who knows his community, can help with problems of job, housing, or school.

Girl Scouts in Milwaukee parish care for tots while parents attend Mass. Nursery eliminates baby-sitting problem.

Photos: Religious News Service.



**Need a baby sitter,
an apartment, a job, an
education? Help is
yours for the asking.**

Try the church, also, when you need a fresh start—especially when you move to a new town and begin to have that all-gone, not-a-friend-in-the-world feeling. Your church congregation can find new friends for you more quickly than any group in the community.

Of course, you must cooperate. Here are some ways you can assist your church in making you

home in God's friendly world. By its program of worship, fellowship, and personal counseling, it will give you that feeling of security which results in good mental and emotional health. Such health will enable you to relax with yourself, with others, and with the world itself.

This is the finest gift your church has, and it's yours for the asking!