

## St. Paul's Center is Five Years Old

Five years have passed since St. Paul's was dedicated by Bishop Haden as a Center for Urban Work and Study, in addition to serving as a house of worship, in March of 1968. In September of that year a three year grant was received from the Church's Executive Council for experimental and specialized services, making it possible to begin programs at the Center.

St. Paul's building was made ready for the many activities which had been in the planning stage for over a year. Twenty-six members of the Junior League of Sacramento were recruited to help get the program off the ground.

In January of 1969 the 120th Anniversary of St. Paul's was celebrated and the office was officially opened. There followed a whole series of programs on Family Life and Sex Education, Aging, "The Ethics of Decision Making," Drama Workshops, Films, Drug Seminars, Art Exhibits, etc. In March a part-time social worker was hired under terms of the grant. In April the Telephone Reassurance program began with 25 subscribers in response to a need which had been identified by the community. TENDRIL, a social and recreational program for older persons was started in May with six seniors in attendance. A Drug Study conducted by some of the Jr. League members was completed and a report was made.

A full time social worker was hired as a consultant to all the projects in September. The INFORMATION & REFERRAL SERVICE was organized in response to the drop-ins who needed this service, in October of 1969. DIVORCE THERAPY groups began, and a total of nine have been held. Individual counseling was an added service.

HOME FRONT, a youth-adult program was organized and soon grew into a six day a week program, with a part-time coordinator funded by the Jr. League. Featured were arts and crafts, discussion groups, dances and light shows, old-time flicks, rap sessions,

poetry reading, Yoga, Astrology and guitar lessons.

Many people remember "The Party," a gala occasion attended by 300 people, when the community was gathered and thanked for their support by means of a strolling dinner, in May of 1971.

In the Fall of 1971 the VISITING PROGRAM began. Thirteen people were visited by twelve visitors. The student job program, originally called Student Job Line, but now called HIRE A YOUTH program was started in 1972 during the months of June, July and August.

In the Fall of 1971 when the original grant ran out and the hoped for United Crusade funds were not forthcoming, the positions of social worker and Home Front Coordinator had to be terminated. The Diocese, St. Paul's congregation, counseling fees and donations helped keep us going until the present new grant from the State Department of Mental Health came into being. The social worker who was hired under the terms of that grant to provide mental health services for isolated elderly persons started the Volunteer Repair Service, in cooperation with RSVP.

Many groups have used the facilities of St. Paul's for counseling, conferences and training sessions and St. Paul's has been a willing host if the purpose met the needs of the community and our purpose in the community. Much has been accomplished, but the challenge of the years ahead is great.