

Need For Interest Cited In Recreation Program

Summer recreation programs for a community's teenagers are a waste of time and money, if they fail to offer wholesome activity that will both interest and benefit them.

This is the opinion of The Rev. Fred Schmitt, a history teacher at Chartrand High School, who has been named co-ordinator of four summer neighborhood programs for inner-city youths.

SPONSORED by the Catholic Youth Organization, and made possible by an \$18,000 grant from the United Fund of Greater Indianapolis, Summer Satisfaction '67 opens tomorrow, and runs through Aug. 26.

"This means that for the first time in our history the CYO will be able to sponsor seven-day-a-week projects under full-time professional guidance," Father Schmitt said.

Although the program is under CYO sponsorship, it is open to all teen-agers, regardless of church affiliation, in the city.

Father Schmitt said he expected that no less than 5,000 boys and girls would participate. And while program planners have set up a schedule of activities for the youngsters, "It is not an inflexible situation," Father Schmitt said.

Because of its scope and newness, he said, "Our program will be run on a trial and error basis. We will make necessary changes, as we go along, to fit the needs and interests of the children," Father Schmitt said.

"We have here," Father Schmitt said, "an opportunity to touch 5,000 — perhaps, and hopefully, more — children in the inner city. The success of the program depends on creating in them an attitude whereby they will become aware of the fact that the community is interested in them."

INCLUDED in the format is a wide range of cultural, academic and recreational projects.

In many areas, Father Schmitt said, there is a decided need for teaching sewing to young teen-age girls. Through area leaders, he said, many housewives have been asked to lend their portable sewing machines.

"The response has been most gratifying," Father Schmitt said. "I feel certain

we will have an ample supply of machines and volunteer teachers to help move the program along."

For those youngsters who like their summer recreation on the less vigorous side, the priest said, there will be classes in ceramics, painting and woodworking; tours of points of interest in the city and drama study also will be available.

"Of course," said Father Schmitt, we expect to have our share of the lively ones visit our summer centers. For them we will be able to pro-

vide them with such stimulating activities as basketball, table tennis, volley ball, swimming, soft ball, bowling and skating."

LOCATIONS of the summer programs, which will run daily from 4:30 to 10:30 p.m. are: North Street Community Center, 617 East North Street; St. Rita's Gymnasium, 18th Street and Arsenal Avenue; Holy Angels School, 28th Street and Northwestern Avenue, and St. Patrick School, 950 Prospect Street.

These centers will be open tomorrow for parents wanting more information how their children can participate in the program, Father Schmitt said.

Professional city school teachers and social workers will serve as paid staff personnel, but Father Schmitt said he expects volunteer workers will outnumber the salaried employes in the project.

"We hope this program will create in the youngsters, a spirit of leadership and pride in their community. Any money spent to successfully guide our teen-agers in the right direction, is certainly worth the cost," Father Schmitt said.