Unknown Heroes

Givers to Chest Unaware Of Benefaction's Extent

By MARIE WEIDMAN
Rochester Catholic Charities

It has been said that Trotsky, early twentieth century Communist, would gladly have died for the Russian Revolution had a million men looked on as he breathed his last. Heroism of that type appears easy, before some awed audience; a truer test of heroism would certainly be the ability to stay at unspectacular tasks, to achieve quietly with the knowledge that we are as big as the things for which we come to stand.

Marie Weidman

The Rochester Community Chest, soon to open its thirty-first annual fund drive, has performed in just this calm, reliable fashion year after year. Gradually a fine and efficient organization has evolved, giving succor indirectly, through Rochester's social agencies, to thousands of the city's troubled and needy.

NO ONE CAN measure the good for which the Chest is responsible; a mere statistic cannot possibly tell the thankfulness of an impoverished mother that her child is fed, nor can figures even remotely indicate how a child might feel as he is decently clothed, perhaps for the first time.

By means of Community Chest aid the city's social agencies are able to offer many and varied services to those in this area. To the office or factory worker signing a pledge card, the Chest and what it stands for is pretty nebulous; to some it means simply another income tax deduction, to others, an annoying request for already overworked funds.

To those of us who see at first hand what life and living can do to individuals and families, the Chest and its funds means fresh hope for the future, clean new starts for many broken-spirited people.

It is often impossible to make available to the fund-donating public precisely in what way we help the unfortunate; the nature of the individual's trouble always ethically guarded from unnecessary scrutiny, cannot be cited, usually, for the Chest's benefactors — hence our statistics.

OFTEN THE recipients of aid themselves do not realize in exactly what way they are being helped to a better mode of living, so skillful are present-day case work methods. It is enough to say that each year scores of children are removed from evil environments and irresponsible parents, to live as children should live and develop.

Young, unmarried mothers are cared for, their babies protected from the stigma of illegitimacy and shame. Families are rehabilitated, brought together again, resettled and reunited; since this is a serious problem in today's confused world, most agencies offer skilled counseling in marital difficulties.

Old people, an ever-increasing segment of our population, are provided for, and homes for the aged are supported. Other institutions which benefit are the homes for children and settlement houses, as well as hospital clinics, throughout the city.

It is all too true that we are a generation called to struggle and even the bravest grow weary. Yet with all this, the sense of someone's need is a powerful motive in appealing to the public. Never was there so many profoundly important causes crying for intelligent social cooperation.

Never was society so in need of a firm rudder by which to direct its course. By aiding the Community Chest this year we can help keep a straight, clean path for our children. Happiness comes only from helping and giving to our fellows.

Cardinal Undergoes Operation

London — (NC) — His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, has undergone a successful operation for tonsilitis at a hospital here.

Anti-Religious Garb Measure Given Voters

Fargo, N. Dak. —(NC)—Acceptance of a measure which will come before North Dakota voters in the June primaries to prohibit the wearing of religious garb by teachers in public schools — a measure sponsored by persons outside the state and aimed at Catholic nuns teaching in some rural districts — would work hardship on non-Catholic parents and pupils, depriving the children of educational opportunity.

This is brought out in a pamphlet entitled "Facts About Sisters Teaching in Public Schools in North Dakota," a revised edition of which has been published here by the Committee for Defense of Civil Rights.

Readers are urged to pass the booklet on to others so that voters might be informed concerning the issues involved. The pamphlet contains a full discussion of all particular issues in various districts and the constitutional issue of separation of church and state.

IT IS STATED that there are over 6,000 public school teachers in North Dakota, of whom 75 are Catholic nuns, most of these teaching in public school districts where all are Catholics. In two of these schools the principal or superintendent is a Protestant, although nearly all the people of the community are Catholic.

"The Sisters did not seek positions in the districts where they teach," the pamphlet states. "The people urged them to accept these schools. No attempt has ever been made by school boards or by anyone else to force Sisters on a community against the wishes of a non-Catholic minority."

In nine of the schools where nuns teach, the school buildings were built by church groups and are church owned, but the buildings are lent free to the public school districts. Through this arrangement all the children, Catholic and non-Catholic, enjoy first-class educational opportunities, in some instances including high schools.

"SHOULD THE anti-garb measure, perchance, carry," the pamphlet states, "it will be necessary to use the church-owned school buildings for parochial schools. The one-room public schools will then return, although there will be difficulty in maintaining even a one-room school for two to six children. This would work a hardship on the non-Catholic parents and non-Catholic children."

It is noted that the attack on nuns teaching in public schools, which occurs only where conditions make it impossible to secure lay teachers, is under way in some other states, notably in New Mexico, and it is said the attacks are being launched by groups which are foreign to the states involved and which have no interest in local conditions. Moreover, it is pointed out that courts have passed upon the constitutionality of employing as a public school teacher a person who wears a religious garb.

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Divorces Increase in Canada

Ottawa (NC) During the past year there were 7,942 divorces granted in Canada. This compares with 2,068 granted in 1939.

LAY APOSTLE IN CHINA

Believed to be the first American Catholic girl to go to China as a lay apostle, Mary Louise Tully, (above) of Lagrange, Ill., is shown mastering the use of "chop-sticks" at a picnic in a Chinese village. Trained for her work at the Grailville School of the Apostolate, at Grailville, Loveland, Ohio, Miss Tully is now studying the Chinese language before beginning her labors among the native Chinese. (NC Photos.)

At Our House

Keep Old Folks Happy Is Important Thing

By MARY TINLEY DALY

"I'm going to a home," announced old Mrs. Hurley the other day. "Nobody wants me around here."

"Now, Mother," said Frances, "you know we love you."

"Oh, no, you don't," said her mother. "If you did, you wouldn't take away my best dress."

Mary Daly

"But I told you, Mother — I sent it to the cleaners."

"I'm just an old woman and in the way," sniffed Mrs. Hurley. "You take away my dress and Bob leaves me alone . . ."

"Bob's car broke down, Mother. You know that old car of his."

"That's it: excuses — always excuses. And after all I've done for you children . . ."

THE DAY AFTER the latest tirade Frances called her mother to dinner. No answer. She went up to Mrs. Hurley's room. No mother!

Frantically she called her brother. They telephoned friends, hospitals and the police. Still no Mrs. Hurley.

Maybe, thought Frances, that "home" talk had some foundation.

"We might call — how about the Little Sisters of the Poor?"

A call revealed that Mrs. Hurley was there — sound asleep in bed.

"She didn't tell you she was coming?" asked the Mother Superior. "We supposed that you knew . . ."

"I couldn't feel more relieved if she were in the bridal suite at the Mayflower," said Frances. "But Mother has no extra clothing with her and no money — and she has no regular income."

"That's all right," said the Mother Superior. "We tend to all that and we're glad to have her. We're used to old ladies — and gentlemen too — coming here when they think they aren't wanted at home. Sometimes they stay a few days and sometimes they stay for a long time. Why don't you let your mother make her own decision?"

"But what about credentials?" asked Frances. "Or money?"

The Mother Superior laughed. "Those things are of no importance in our work. We're here to make elderly people comfortable and happy. Would't you like to visit your mother? You're welcome any time."

THE NEXT DAY Frances and Bob visited the home. There was Mrs. Hurley comfortably ensconsed in a rocker in a sunny room, with canary birds singing all around. She had found a pal an old lady about her age and the two of them were exchanging reminiscences. She could hardly tear herself away from her new-found friend long enough to talk to her children.

"Are you happy, Mother?" asked Frances.

"As happy as I'd be anywhere," sighed Mr. Hurley.

"And don't you want to come home with us now?" asked Bob.

"Well, I promised to teach Mrs. Murphy a new crochet pattern," said his mother, "and I don't want to disappoint her."

At the Mother Superior's invitation, Frances and Bob went through the Home. They saw the dormitory where their mother slept plain but immaculately clean. There were shaded porches where the elderly people could relax, pleasant walks in walled-in gardens where they could take their exercise.

Frances nodded understandingly. "And are they required to perform any duties?" she asked as she saw an old lady busily dusting.

"Only if they want to," said the Mother Superior. "Some like to keep active, others just want to rest. We let them do what they like."

"Do you think Mother will want to stay here?"

"Well . . ." the Mother Superior hesitated, "one never can tell. Maybe she will decide that she has more privileges at home, maybe she will find more congenial friends here. After all, keeping your mother happy is the important thing, isn't it?"

Diocesan Nurses Talk At Boston Convention

Catholic nurses from Rochester, Auburn and Elmira headed for Boston this week to participate in the fourth biennial convention of the National Council of Catholic Nurses which opens today and continues through Sunday.

Scheduled to take part in this afternoon's panel discussion were the Rev. Charles F. Connell, chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Miss Sylvia Marshall, president of the Rochester Council of Catholic Nurses and Miss Mary Rose Maley.

Fr. Connell

The Rochester delegation also included the Misses: Helen Wilke, vice-president of the Rochester Council; Helen Wintish, president of St. Mary Alumnae; Arlene Bluhm, Marie Fink, Marion Consella, Irene Nothnagle, Margaret Boland, and Mary Anderson.

AUBURN COUNCIL is represented at the convention by: Mrs. Bessie Burns and Miss Anne Guisti of Mercy Hospital, Auburn, and Miss Mary Muldoon, Weedsport Public School nurse.

Miss Dorothy Young and Miss Loraine Nelson will represent Elmira Council of Catholic Nurses.

Leading figures in the field of nursing and medicine, are included in the speakers and delegates to the convention. Rev. Raymond A. McGowan, assistant director of the Department of Social Action, N. C. W. C., which has responsibility for matters of health and hospitals, celebrated the opening Mass.

Speakers include: Miss Anne J. Houck, Washington, executiv director of the nurse council; Miss Catherine Dempsey, president of the Boston Council; Miss Mary A. Baker, president of the Denver unit; Dr. Frederick J. Rosenheim, co-director, Judge Baker, Guidance Center, Boston; and Sister Olivia, O.S.B., dean of the Catholic University of America School of Nursing, Washington.

Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston and Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio, episcopal chairman of the nurses' council, are on the speakers' roster.

Miss Maley

Bishop John J. Wright, Auxiliary of Boston, will celebrate Pontifical High Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on the convention's closing day with the nurses attending in uniform.

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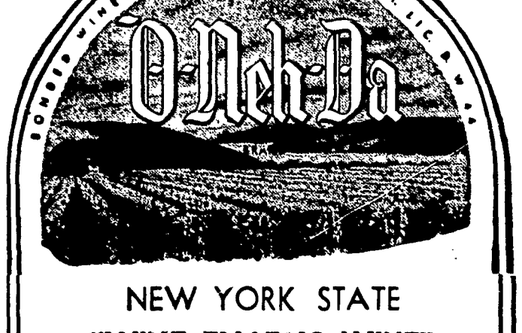

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On Mother's Day, please don't forget those motherless children whom the Ursuline Sisters have gathered from the streets of Athens into their orphanage on the island of Tinos, off the coast of Greece. A hundred dollars will keep a homeless child for a year. Your gift will keep him from hunger.

LOVELIEST MOTHER

During Mary's month, place flowers at her feet by your deposits in "Mary's Bank" for her daughters, our devoted Near East nuns. Those cloistered Carmelite Sisters at Kady Koy, Turkey, need help badly. Remember that they cannot go out to beg and their prayers are powerful in our behalf.

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THEIR KINGLY GUEST

To all who give ten dollars for the First Communion outfit of a Near East orphan child we send a picture of one of these groups. Won't you give the garments in which they go to meet their Kingly Guest for the first time?

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MARY AT KERBIS

Bishop Cheikho asks the relatively small sum of $500 to build a Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Kerbis in Iraq. What a proud boast will be yours, if you can build this House of God. Our Lady reigns in humble hearts.

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WHAT IS HOME?

After Mother has gone to God, the family disperses. Keep your family together spiritually. A hundred dollars enrolls all living and dead, forever. Five dollars will enroll all annually. Grateful missionaries remember you in thousands of Masses.

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ADOPTED DAUGHTER

Sister Marie Andre is nineteen years old, a novice with the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Sohag, Egypt. Three hundred dollars will pay for her two years' training before she becomes a missionary. Can you make her your spiritual daughter?

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"OTHER SON"

Six hundred dollars will train a Near East missionary priest. He will be your adopted son in Christ. Right now, we have young men at St. John's Seminary, Mossul, Iraq, who need your help.

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PICTURE OF MARY

None of our humble chapels should be without a picture of Our Lady. Can you give twenty dollars to provide one for Akra, Iraq? Mary will smile down on you during her month.

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BASIL'S BRETHREN

St. Basil gathered all the stray waifs off the streets, and that is why we have called the BASILIANS, our School Club, after him. But we need many more members who will give a dollar monthly. In Egypt alone, we have ten thousand children in our free schools!

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STILL ASKING

Again and again we must beg for help to buy enough leather, tops, bottoms and lining, which we must send to those refugee seminarians at Hirschberg, Bavaria, for shoes. Seven dollars will provide enough for a pair.

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BOUGE BOUQUET

Make a Eucharistic bouquet to Our Sacramental King by giving a chalice, a ciborium for Holy Communion, and a monstrance for Benediction, to a humble Near East chapel. One hundred and seventy-five dollars will supply these three sacred articles.

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FOUR DOLLARS!

The Mass bell, heralding Christ's coming at Mass, costs four dollars, and we have a special request from Bishop Scandar of Assiut Egypt, for many of these. By giving one, you help to greet the Lord on the Altar.

Send all communications to
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.