

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

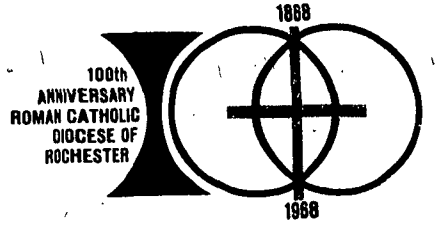
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## A Forlorn Christmas for Many

By FATHER RICHARD TORMEY

Our Blessed Lord once said: "The poor you have always with you." But poverty and hunger, loneliness and misfortune never seem more poignant than at Christmas time.

We do not lack for reminders that the poor need us. Mail appeals by the dozen beg us to send checks to charities and missions; tinkling bells downtown beg coins for the kettles of the Salvation Army; relief agencies solicit toys and food-baskets and clothing.

But so much of the pre-Christmas plea for the unfortunate is impersonal: the poor family is a statistic, not a group of real children and parents whose bad luck is a smashing tragedy; the lonely old people are names on a list, not tragedies of sickness that could happen to any one of us.

The COURIER JOURNAL today prints some true stories of misfortune and heart-break, tiny sketches of human woe crying for loving kindness.

These 20 needy groups receive the material wants of life from public or Catholic agencies. But they need more: sympathy and encouragement, little extras that can restore confidence, a sense that somebody cares; a lift, not in cash alone, but the assurance that their bewilderment will be eased by an individual or family who has read of them and wants to get involved.

These people are real: their stories come from a variety of organizations aiding the poor in this diocese. Their identity has been disguised, yet with any contribution you send you can reach out to them almost personally. (We will list another group next week.)

The need that these 20 cases reveal symbolize hundreds of others in our area. You may choose to contact the agency listed under each story in order to help that one family or individual, or to let the agency spread your gift to several other unfortunates.

The need for love that this listing reveals is the concern of all of us. Will you, please, read these stories and move at once to help one of them, or let the agency use your gift to aid many more?

1. Mr. J., 70, is a stroke patient. He is permanently confined to a wheelchair and his wife must give him total care. It has been discovered that his daughter is in the terminal stage of cancer. The daughter's husband is a mental patient and there are six small children. Mr. J.'s wife is now faced with the care of her husband and six grandchildren. She would rather care for her husband than to have him placed in an institution.

Case is being cared for by Catholic Family Center. Address them directly at 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

2. Mr. and Mrs. E. have 2 children. When the family was first found Mrs. E. was sleeping on the floor. Mr. E. is afflicted with both cerebral palsy and the amputation of one leg. The family moved recently from a trailer to a house. The local Jaycees recently dug them a well providing them with the first running water they have ever had. Mr. E. attempts to support his family by door-to-door selling.

Case being cared for by the Secular Mission of Yates and Seneca Counties. Address them directly at 312 Liberty St., Penn Yan, N.Y.

3. Mr. and Mrs. A. have 5 children and must live in a small shack without siding on it. Mr. A. is on disability pay and since he has a heart ailment, is unable to work to supplement his income and is also ineligible to receive welfare payments.

Case being cared for by Elmira Inner-City Ministry. Address them directly at c/o Sr. Ellen Popowski, Notre Dame High School, 1400 Maple Ave., Elmira, 14904.

4. Mr. and Mrs. H. "live" with their 11 children in an inner city downstairs apartment — living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, bath—cellar-flooded, roach-ridden, rat-infested. One child is in state hospital. Father works irregularly, just enough to keep off welfare. Landlord refuses to repair or renovate: "if you don't like it, get out!" Greatest need (up to now seemingly unattainable) is better housing.

Case being cared for by St. Martin dePorres Center. Address them directly at 557 Clinton Ave. North, Rochester 14605.

Gifts for any needy described here should be sent directly to the organization printed under each case. Write or call that organization describing the story; offer your gift for a particular case or charity work in general. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY TO THE COURIER JOURNAL.

5. Antonio and his wife with 13 children live in a small 6-room house. Due to a severe case of arthritis, he can only work part-time. Four of the school age children have after-school and weekend jobs and contribute to the support of the family.

Case is being cared for by Catholic Family Center. Address them directly at 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

6. Mr. and Mrs. R. and 4 children came to Rochester recently from Puerto Rico. They live in a tiny apartment over a store. Although skilled in operating construction equipment, he has been unable to earn to his capacity because of little knowledge of English. He has taken a rather menial job to support his family rather than ask for assistance.

Case is being cared for by Catholic Family Center. Address them directly at 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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## Taxpayers Warned of Results If Catholic Schools Close Down

By ALEX McDONALD

Officials and taxpayers in the 12 counties of the Diocese got strong warning last weekend that the closing of parochial schools for money reasons might turn 40,000 Catholic children over to the public school systems of the area within the next two or three years.

Msgr. William M. Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools, told Rochester Democrat and Chronicle education editor Joyce Wilson, that public tax revenue for parochial schools is the only hope for their survival.

The 102 parish schools and 17 privately-run high schools are in a fight for survival, Msgr. Roche declared in the interview, printed on Dec. 8, aimed at alerting public school boards to the possibility of a massive trans-

fer of Catholic students in a few years.

"The taxpayer must be made aware that this is coming," Msgr. Roche said. "It's going to be his decision ultimately how this is going to be financed."

"It will be much cheaper, by as much as half, to give tax support to the parochial schools, rather than to close them."

Msgr. Roche predicted that at the end of next spring's semester, many parishes of the diocese will have to decide whether it is feasible to keep the schools open or not. If it is not, he stated, various schools will be closed systematically "over a two to three year period."

The superintendent stated that he does not favor eliminating a few

grades per school to reduce expenses, as the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has by dissolving all first and second grades in the parochial schools.

He favors, operating the schools full force or closing them, he told the Democrat and Chronicle.

Catholic elementary schools' per pupil cost is about \$250 and the high schools' about \$400, Msgr. Roche said. Tuition charges to meet expenses average \$40 annually in the elementary schools and \$400 in the high schools, the interview reported.

Admitting the financial difficulties borne by the Catholic high schools, which are operated and financed by various religious communities and not by parishes, Msgr. Roche told Miss Wilson that if the elementary schools have to close up gradually,

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Principals in the Centennial Concert on Tuesday evening at Nazareth Arts Center were, from left, Father John Frega, OFM, Cap., Chuck Mangione, Donald Meminger and Father Benedict Ehmann. Premiers of compositions by Mangione and Dr. Wayne Barlow, both of the Eastman School of Music faculty marked the program.

## New Music Celebrates Century

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

Musical history was made here this week under the aegis of the Rochester Diocese.

Two new works were launched by Rochester composers Wednesday night in the Nazareth Arts Center as the diocese capped its centennial observance with a public concert.

Dr. Wayne Barlow's "Wait for the Promise of the Father" wove together opposite passages from the Acts of the Apostles and St. Peter in a rich tapestry of voices, woodwinds and strings.

Brass, percussion, strings and voices combined for "shouts of gladness" in Chuck Mangione's "Gloria."

These were premier performances of specially commissioned music. Dr. Barlow's cantata, which the program described as "contemporary classic," was authorized by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen to mark the end of one century, the beginning of another, for the diocese. Mangione's jazz piece is

former on the diocesan payroll — which the seminary commissioned for its 75th anniversary.

The performers included Eastman musicians and the glee clubs of Nazareth College and St. Bernard's. David Fetter conducted the cantata.

The program opened with early church music — Gregorian chant by the seminary choir, which Father Benedict Ehmann directed.

The Holy Rosary choir, directed by Don Meminger, took up the musical history with polyphonic Kyrie, Sanctus and Benedictus, from the 10th century, and a Gloria in the modern idiom.

Folk music that Meminger's group will repeat at the 10 a.m. Mass this Sunday quickened the pace for a break into the jazz portion of the program. The folk songs were accompanied by a trio that included probably the only professional jazz per-

former on the diocesan payroll — Capuchin Father John Frega of the seminary faculty. Father Frega slapped the string bass in a manner that gained him jazz-world fame before he entered the priesthood 22 years ago.

Mangione's choral group and orchestra, conducted by him, warmed up for the majestic volume and brilliance of his "Gloria" with "An Act of Contrition" — Joe Mooney's tune scored for the occasion by Chuck's brother Gap Mangione.

William Read and Gene Tucker of the Eastman School sang the solo parts of the Barlow cantata. The "action" comes to a climax after a rumor of "false prophets" sweeps the chorus. Ultimate destruction is signaled by a sudden agonized shout, and the music subsides in a murmur that "all flesh is like grass . . ."

"But the word of the Lord abides forever," the singers proclaim.

## Catholics in Nigeria Face Government Pressure

By JOHN R. SULLIVAN (NC News Service)

Washington — Catholics in Nigeria are encountering increasing pressure from the government and from the population because of efforts by Catholic agencies to help Biafran victims of the nation's civil war.

"This backlash is already being felt in Lagos," said Joe Iyalla, Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States. "And if it gets worse it could have grave implications for other aspects of Nigerian life."

Sources in Lagos indicated that the Nigerian press and broadcast media carried daily attacks on Catholic relief organizations. The attacks are putting Church leaders under considerable pressure to take sides in the war.

Ambassador Iyalla, who had just returned to Washington after a month in Nigeria, charged that much of the anti-Catholic animosity is a result of charges by missionaries and others that the Biafran war is "holy war" being waged by Northern Moslems against the Eastern Christians.

Nigerian unity is necessary for the Ibo people, he said. "They cannot live in the small area they call Biafra. They need the federation so they can use their talents."

Since May, 1967, however, the Ibo

have been seeking independence in the tiny corner of Nigeria which is their homeland. On May 30, 1967, they declared independence, named their nation — the former Eastern Region of Nigeria — "Biafra," and have fought a bitter war against Nigerian troops.

The nation's bishops have called a meeting to be held Dec. 17. They have promised to issue a statement soon after.

Whatever it says, the statement will have to deal in some way with these charges:

- That Caritas, the Vatican-based relief organization which is operating solely in Biafra, has supplied arms and recruited mercenaries for the Biafrans. This was stated over Nigerian radio.
- That Caritas and Catholic Relief Services — the U.S. agency which operates both in Biafra and Nigeria — are operating "in defiance of the federal government." This came from Ambassador Iyalla.
- That the relief organizations' appeals for a ceasefire have been made in an attempt to aid the Biafran military effort. OXFAM, the British relief group, and Caritas were called "collaborators" with the Biafran leaders, and were charged with taking sides.

## Arbp. Dearden Clarifies U.S. Bishops' Pastoral

Detroit — (RNS) — Archbishop John F. Dearden, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, has emphasized the right of a properly informed conscience to make the final decision on the methods Catholics should use in birth control.

The head of the Archdiocese of Detroit made his comments in a half-hour, closed circuit television program which was seen in 190 archdiocesan parishes and schools.

Archbishop Dearden was one of a panel which discussed the recent pastoral letter issued by the NCCB, "Human Life in Our Time."

Father Anthony Kosnik, professor of theology at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary on Orchard Lake, Mich., questioning the Archbishop said the NCCB pastoral stressed respect for individual conscience in such unrelated matters as selective conscientious objection and planned parenthood.

The theologian quoted the following definition from the pastoral: "Responsible parenthood, as the Church understands it, places on the properly formed conscience of spouses all the judgments, options and choices which add up to the awesome decision to give, postpone or decline life. The final decision may sometimes involve medical, economic, sociological and psychological considerations."

Agreeing to this position, the archbishop replied: "Neither the papal encyclical, Humanae Vitae, nor the bishops' pastoral presumes to move into the area of individual conscience and to pass judgment on those who independently form their conscience contrary to authentic Church teaching."

"We are not qualified to judge. We cannot move in from the outside and say thus and so are right or wrong."

However, Archbishop Dearden emphasized that the conscience must be an informed one, carefully appraising the teachings of the Church and seeking some counsel. He explained: "The norm to be set has to show regard for a person's responsibility to form his conscience before God. This does not mean one closes his eyes and comes up with what he wants. But it means he makes his decision on the basis of an informed conscience, on the basis of all available knowledge and aided by divine grace."

Archbishop Dearden, in explaining the motivation for the pastoral, said that it came in part from the feeling "of a grave need" for explaining the doctrine of "an informed conscience."

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