

## A Story for Christmas

### Two Tots 'Homeless' No More

By JOHN DASH

Last August, the single word "Homeless" appeared in this paper over the picture of a sparkling-eyed baby girl who was just about to get her fingers in the frosting of her birthday cake.

Last week, Barbara, as the Courier-Journal called her, became the newest member of a Southern Tier family. Homeless no more.

Barbara, was a child of black and white parents, who was under the care of the Catholic Family Center, and despite the fact that she was "such a dainty little girl, all big brown eyes," she had trouble finding a family to call her own.

Barbara is now living with her new Mommy and Daddy and nine older brothers and sisters in a big white farm house with an enormous yard.

Barbara's new mother remarked, "We feel very lucky to have her joining our family." She described the child as "a joy," with a "kind, happy and friendly manner."

A week after Barbara's picture appeared in the Courier-Journal, the picture of Susie was shown. Susie was also a homeless child of black and white parentage.

In October, the wistful little Susie, who loves to peek at friends from around corners and run giggling away, found a new family complete with four brothers-and sisters in a Rochester suburb.

Susie's new home is a large white house decorated in early American, with lots of yard to play in.

Her parents feel that having Susie join their family is a great advantage to themselves and their children.

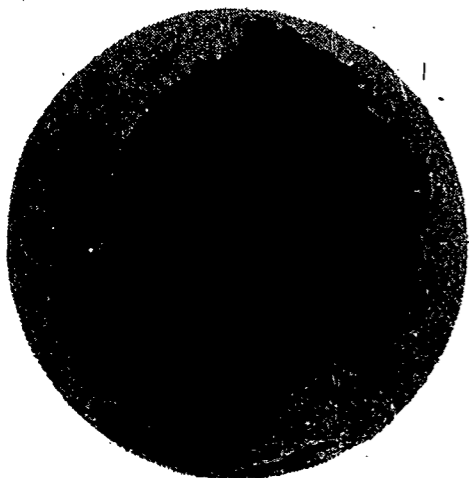
But even though two families have welcomed children of mixed-race parentage into their families, the problem of finding warm, loving homes for the homeless is not over.

Miss Catherine Wobus, of the Catholic Family Center, reported last week that there is now a need to find homes for five more black and mixed race children.

"We are looking for both white and black families to give these children the love they need and deserve," Miss Wobus said. Both Barbara's and Susie's new families are white.

Miss Wobus remarked that diocesan families who are interested in more information on the subject of adoption may write Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604.

## Others Are Waiting

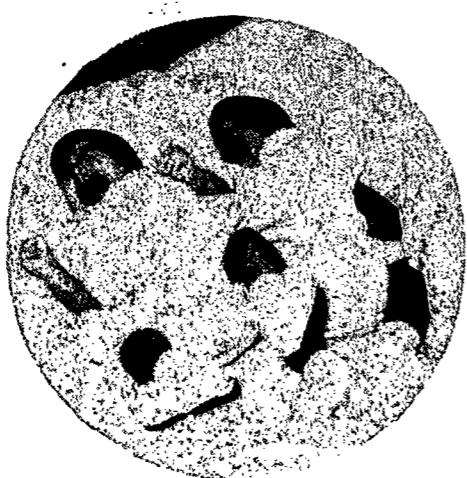


David

Fair, petite Mae and Doris were born just eight weeks ago. Identical twins, they are children of black and white parentage.

So close to Christmas, the little girls need adoptive parents who can give them love, and affection and security.

Bright-eyed and raring to go, David is all black and all boy. He was born

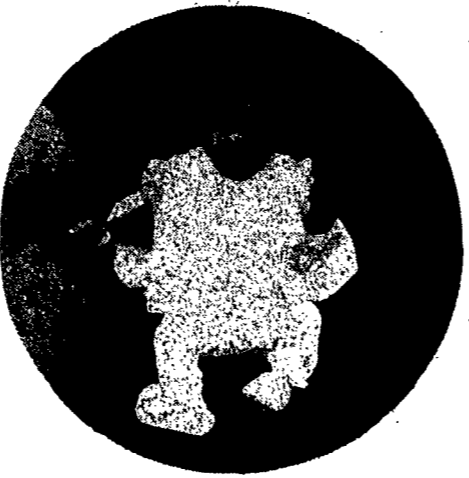


Mae and Doris

last July, and will spend his first Christmas in a foster home.

"You just couldn't help but love June," the case worker said describing the little black girl who was born in August.

Tiny Tammy was born just a month ago, of black and white parents. Like



June

the others, she will spend Christmas in a foster home, hoping to become someone's very own little girl, very soon.

Diocesan families who are interested in adopting these children or who would like more information on adoption, may write Miss Catherine E. Wobus, Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604.



Father Kelly

Father Corretto

Father Martin

Father Mitrano

Father Benwitz

## 5 Aquinas Grads to Be Ordained

Five Aquinas Institute graduates will be ordained to the priesthood at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Dec. 13, in Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

All five are members of the Congregation of St. Basil, which staffs Aquinas and St. John Fisher College. Three of them have been teaching at the local high school this year, while continuing their studies at St. Bernard's Seminary.

The new priests are Fathers Donald E. Benwitz, Michael P. Corretto and Stephen R. Martin of the Aquinas faculty; James J. Kelly and Joseph C. Mitrano. Fathers Kelly and Martin were graduated from Aquinas in 1957. The other three were in the class of '58.

Father Benwitz is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald F. Benwitz of 1820 Chili Ave. He took first vows in the Basilian Fathers in 1959 and received a bachelor of arts degree from St. John Fisher College in 1963. This year the degree of bachelor of sacred theology was conferred on him by the University of St. Michael's College. He will complete requirements for the master of arts this summer at Notre Dame University. His first Mass will be celebrated in St. Helen's church on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

A reception will follow in the church hall.

Father Corretto is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Corretto of 438 Hinchey Rd. He entered the novitiate of the Basilians in 1959 and was graduated from St. John Fisher College in 1963. He earned the bachelor of sacred theology this year from the University of St. Michael's College. Father Corretto will celebrate his first Mass in St. Helen's church at 11:15 a.m. on Dec. 14. A reception will be held in the church hall immediately after the Mass.

Father Kelly, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Kelly of 46 Hamlin St., was professed in the Basilian Fathers in 1958 and attended the University of Toronto where he was awarded the B.A. degree in 1963 and the bachelor of sacred theology degree in 1968. He also has a master of arts degree from the University of Rochester. A concelebrated Mass will be offered in Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2:30 p.m. with a reception following in the parish hall.

Father Martin, the son of Mrs. Arthur L. Martin and the late Mr. Martin, entered the novitiate of the Basilian Fathers in 1957. In 1963 he was awarded the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Toronto

and in 1967 he began theological studies at the Sulpician Seminary in Paris, France. He returned in September of this year. He will offer Mass at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14 at St. Thomas the Apostle church, St. Paul Blvd., and will receive guests in the school hall from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Father Mitrano is one of eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mitrano, 242 Arcadia Parkway. Three of his sisters are Sisters of St. Joseph. He entered the Basilian Fathers upon graduation from high school and in 1963 received a B.A. degree from St. John Fisher College. In 1969 the University of St. Michael's College conferred upon him the bachelor of sacred theology degree. He will celebrate his first Mass at his home parish of St. Anthony on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m. A reception will be held in the church hall after Mass.

### How to Help Poor On Christmas

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### European Tour Being Prepared

A 15-day guided tour to three European countries is planned in spring under the leadership of Father Lawrence Gross, assistant pastor of Holy Name Church, Greece.

Father Gross said the departure date will be April 22 and the return date May 6. Included will be visits to Lisbon, Fatima, Paris, Lourdes, Rome, Florence, Venice, Assisi and others. A charge of \$675 per person will include transportation, lodging and three meals daily.

### A St. Bernard's First

## Seminarians Awarded Bachelors in Divinity

St. Bernard's Seminary awarded Bachelor of Divinity degrees to 58 students this week in the first such ceremony in its 75-year history.

Bishop Hogan presented the degrees in the seminary chapel following the celebration of the school's patronal feast-day Mass honoring the Immaculate Conception on Monday.

Students of the graduating classes of 1969 and 1970 were the recipients of the diplomas granted by the Seminary and the State of New York under a charter established in 1966. The bachelor degree covers a 3-year graduate course.

## An Audio-Visual Nativity Scene

An eight-minute audio-visual Nativity panorama — representing literally months of spare-time labor by one man — currently is attracting crowds at St. Charles Borromeo School in Greece.

As the biblical story of the Nativity is related, with choral background, on a sound track, lighting effects produce sunrise, sunset, twinkling stars and the moon as the viewer sees "the little town of Bethlehem" in the foreground and Jerusalem in the rear.

The diorama contains, for instance, still water for the Dead Sea and running water for the River Jordan. There are some 30 tiny buildings, including castles, nearly 50 people and about 25 animals. More than 100 bulbs inside buildings light their windows in the night scenes.

During the darkness, small luminous angels appear in midair, then slowly disappear.

About 20 persons at a time can get into the room to see the tableau, and "shows" are staged from 3 to 11 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays, and from 2 to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. No admission fee is charged, although donations are accepted.

Perhaps more remarkable than the panorama itself is the fact that it was produced by one man, with very little assistance. He is Bernard (Bud) Miller, 33, of 88 Florida Ave., Greece. He attended St. Charles School as a youngster, and has done the work as a Christmas gift to the parish.

By day Miller is a collision man at Miller Ford Inc., Irondequoit — mending a welder's torch and other tools to repair damaged vehicles. Since mid-summer he has been spending just about every night — often until after midnight — at the school assembling



Bernard (Bud) Miller squats in midst of homemade 55-foot-long Bethlehem-Jerusalem diorama currently on display at St. Charles Borromeo School in Greece. Silhouetted at right in cave-like viewing area is Father Daniel Wheeland, assistant pastor.

the diorama.

Father Daniel Wheeland, assistant at St. Charles Church, saw a similar diorama Miller had built at a seminary near Buffalo. Miller studied from 1961-64 at the Consolata Society for Foreign Missions seminary in Williamsville.

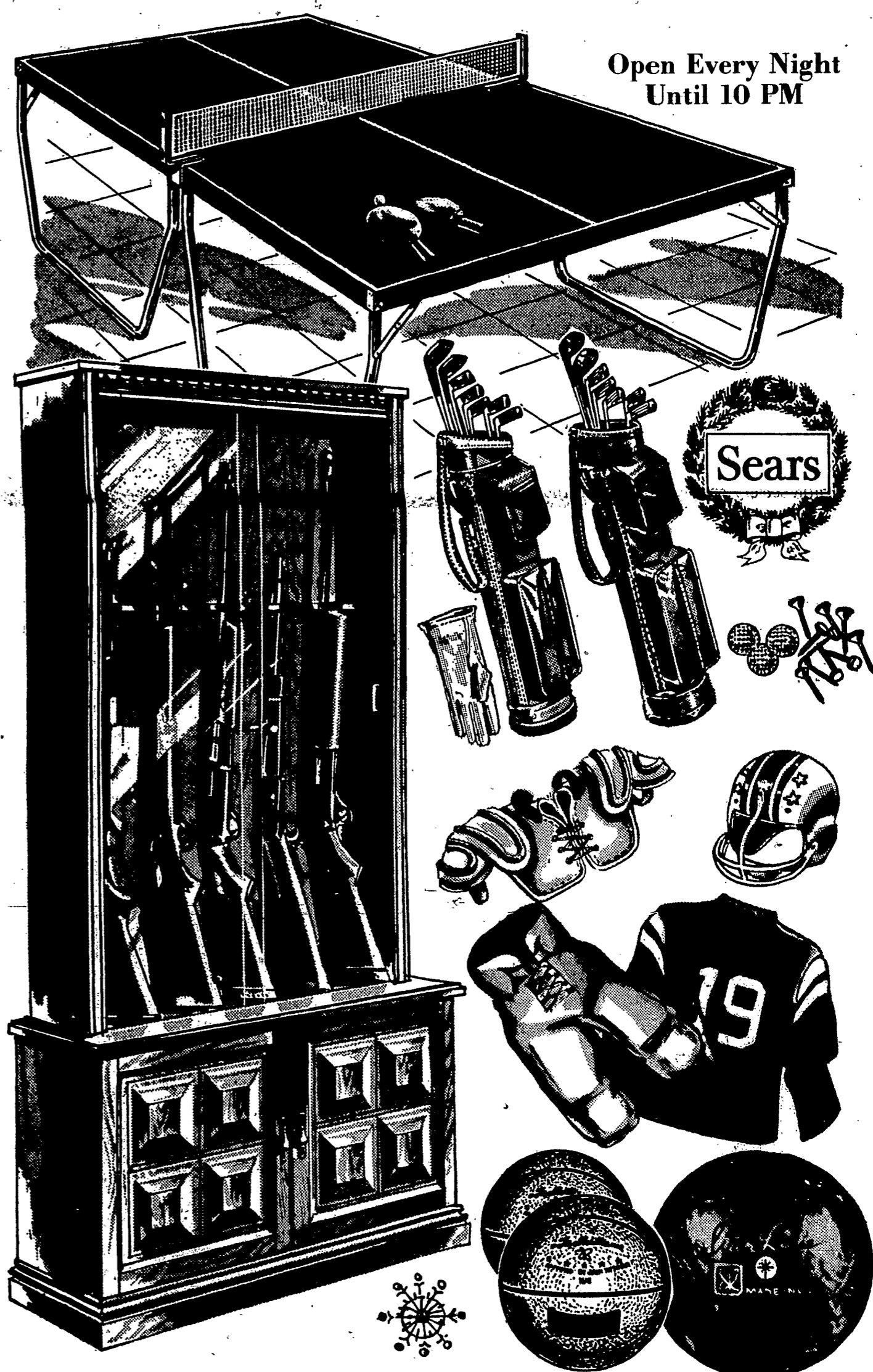
About a year ago Father Wheeland suggested that he undertake a tableau for the parish. "Sure," was the reply, "I'll start right away."

Working at home, he began saving milk cartons, which he cut, glued and painted to represent buildings. He found some toy soldiers, removed the guns, painted and dressed them as shepherds. Burlap bags, old coats and rags were shaped, plastered and painted

to become mountains and fields. The roof of a truck cab serves as a basin for waters of the Dead Sea.

Scores of yards of wrapping paper — painted, then crumpled in rock formations and suspended from ceiling and walls — give the visitor the impression of viewing the tableau from a cave.

Some things had to be purchased, however, including extensive electrical equipment and more than 1,000 feet of wire. For a creche accompanying the diorama the parish bought 18 hand-carved wood figures from a sculptor in Italy — representing Mary, Joseph, the Christ Child, the Wise Men, angels, shepherds, a donkey and sheep. A church committee budgeted \$1,200 for expenses.



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