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Christmas Means Love in a Time of Lamentation

My dear people—

This Holy Season thrusts upon our consciousness the validity of timeless and tested truths. May the grace of this Christmas make them the realities by which we live each day.

The first lesson of Christmas is that God loves us. This becomes a living truth when we learn to say daily: "God loves me personally—so much so that were I the only one in need of redemption, there would have been a Christmas for He would have entered into my world in the helplessness of Infancy to give me new hope and courage."

The second truth is this—man needs this love of God. It is a sad fact that despite almost 2,000 years since His first coming, the world

Christmas, 1969.

of 1970 is distraught. It sadly reproduces the prophet's scroll — "full of lamentation and mourning and woe." For men still have a hunger in their hearts and a search within their lives. And the hunger will never be satisfied nor the search ended, until man finds the Loving God who emptied himself and made our weak flesh His own so that we might find the riches of the Christmas promise — peace and joy to all who will make the effort to go over to Bethlehem.

May all of you experience the vitality of the truth of Christmas.

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Public Aides See Need for Parochial Aid

New York—Representatives of the state's Big Six city Boards of Education met with Catholic school representatives Monday to discuss "the need for all efforts, including those of the New York State Education Department, to explore legal and constitutional avenues of assistance to non-public schools."

All but the New York City board committed themselves to support of such efforts in a statement issued jointly with the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents. The meeting was held at LaGuardia Airport.

(Attending the meeting from Rochester were Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools; Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, of the city's Board of Education, and Herman Goldberger, superintendent of the city school district.)

Following is the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting:

"The representatives of public and Catholic school organizations have a clear realization of the need to refer to their respective Boards of Education and to the State Education Department working toward a joint solution to their common problems which involve the financial needs of all the children of New York State, particularly those in the larger cities.

"In the days ahead both systems face severe financial crises. The failure of either system to support its educational program would seriously affect the other system. Together the systems have a combined enrollment of approximately two million pupils or roughly half the school enrollment in New York State.

"The New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents expressed the need for wholehearted commitment of the Catholic community to the financial support of public education.

"In turn, public school officials recognized the need for all efforts, including those of the New York State Education Department to explore legal and constitutional avenues of assistance to non-public schools.

Diocesan Receive Regents Scholarships

Happy news of college scholarships came to about 400 Catholic homes in the diocese this week as the annual New York State Regents awards were announced. Nearly every parish had senior prize-winners in public or Catholic schools. See Page 8 for the list of the 384 scholarship winners in the 12 Catholic high schools of the diocese.

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Don't Forget the Unfortunate

The Christmas story tells us how much Almighty God has loved the human race. He sent His Son to earth because He knew mankind's helplessness.

Christians of 1969 wishing to reflect that spirit which marked the first coming of the Infant Christ can make gifts of love to the unfortunate and the helpless by looking for a family where poverty, loneliness and sickness have killed happiness.

Today we print a large number of stories of misfortune found in our diocese. These people are real — men and women, old and young, who need the love of a Christmas gift to awaken some hope that they are not forgotten.

Their identity has been disguised but we have verified each situation described. Any gift that you send — money, food or clothing, a toy for the children, an offer of medical help, a promise of future concern — can be directed personally to the family you choose through the organization or individual listed under each case.

Will you please look over these family stories and move at once to help one of them? Do it right now — you may forget over the weekend. Christmas is close and the mails are slow.

Please DO NOT SEND YOUR GIFTS TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL. Contact the specific intermediary listed under the case you wish to help.

1. Mrs. T., a deserted mother of nine children, lives in Rochester in a condemned house with no plumbing. There is an immediate and desperate need here for food, clothing for children, ages 1-11, and most of all for housing for the large family.

Case being cared for by Catholic Family Center. Address them directly at 57 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

2. Mrs. I. lives with her 11 children in eight rooms of a house which she and her husband bought a year and a half ago. Six months ago her husband deserted her leaving her with many debts, including two mortgages on the house. Mrs. X. was working but due to a recurring physical problem has been unable to work and has been receiving Public Assistance along with help from her eldest son.

Case being cared for by Inner City Services, Catholic Family Center. Address them directly at 59 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

3. Mr. and Mrs. S. are a middle aged couple — old before their time — who are afflicted by extremes of poverty and illness. Mr. K. is a diabetic with a severe heart condition following open heart surgery. He should again have heart surgery but is neither physically nor emotionally able to endure it. His wife has several chronic diseases, is recovering from an operation, and is extremely depressed. Because of their high prescriptive medical costs, they often have no money for food.

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

4. Elderly Mr. K. works only sporadically because of recurring sickness brought about by overuse of alcohol and malnutrition, often sleeps "out" under expressway bridge or in vacant houses for lack of room rent, jailed often, frequent visitor at House



of Hospitality where he obtains food and clothing. Typical of many who come daily to the House.

Case being cared for by St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, South Avenue. Address them directly at P. O. Box 3048, Federal Station, Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

5. Mrs. S., mother of nine at-home children ranging in age from 2 to 17, is married to an inveterate drifter. The eldest daughter, a recent arrival from the South, has moved in with husband and two children, for lack of other housing they can afford. Fourteen persons occupy the four rooms, recently furnished with electricity but still without plumbing.

Address Father Sebastian Falcone, OFM., 2240 Lake Ave., Rochester, N.Y.

6. Mr. M. and his wife live in a three-room apartment with their son where they pay a very high rent. Father has a heart condition which limits his capacity for work. Mother has had her own physical problems and son has spent quite a bit of time, off and on, in the hospital for tests, disease, etc. This strains the family budget.

Case being cared for by Inner City Services, Catholic Family Center. Address them directly at 59 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

7. Consists of six children and the mother and father. The oldest child is 7 and the family lives in a completely deteriorated house with no

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Vatican Emphasizes Respect for Israel

Baltimore, Md. — (RNS) — A Vatican document of far-reaching import in Jewish-Christian relations, which calls upon Christians "to respect the religious significance of the state of Israel," was made public here by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore.

Approved early in December at a plenary session in Rome of the Secretariat for Christian Unity, the document sets forth principles and guidelines for Catholics to improve their understanding of, and relations with, "their Jewish brethren."

Its stated purpose is "to offer concrete suggestions" that will help to achieve the aims of the precedent-making "Declaration of Vatican Council II on Non-Christian Religions of 1965."

Noting that "still too often Christians do not know what Jews are," or "do not see them as they are in themselves and as they define themselves . . . as the people of the Bible living in our midst," the document reminds Christians that Jews are "a people which in its history has encountered the living and true God, the one God who established with that people a covenant, of which circumcision is the sign."

Fidelity to this covenant, the document adds, "was linked to the gift of land, which in the Jewish soul has endured as the object of an aspiration that Christians should strive to understand and respect."

That is why, the document continues, "the existence of the state of Israel should not be separated from this perspective; which does not in itself imply any judgment on historical concurrences or on decisions of a purely political order."

The document emphasizes that it was "within Judaism that Christianity was born and wherein it found essential elements of its faith and cult."

2 Radio Broadcasts Scheduled by Bishop

Bishop Hogan will make two diocesan-wide radio broadcasts in the holiday season, speaking on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with special messages to people of every parish.

Speaking directly from his study at the Pastoral Office on facilities installed for periodic radio-visits, the Bishop will be heard at 7 o'clock on Christmas Eve and 11:15 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

The diocesan hookup will include radio stations WSAY of Rochester, WENY of Elmira, WMBO-FM of the Auburn area, and the audio-channels of the TV-cable services in the areas of Elmira, Hornell, Corning and Auburn.

Theoretically the Bishop will be able to be heard in 80 per cent of

the homes of the diocese at one time on these broadcasts.

His Christmas Eve greetings will be part of the Family Rosary for Peace program from 7 to 7:30 p.m. It will be a spiritual message keyed to the Nativity of Christ.

Bishop Hogan intends to speak on New Year's Eve about his hopes and intentions for diocesan programs in the months ahead. This 15-minute talk will be part of a Holy Hour Broadcast originating in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Major Joseph A. Cirrone, pastor and Father Richard Tomney of the Courier-Journal will speak the prayers and meditations in the remainder of the 40-minute devotional program beginning at 11:15 p.m.

