



Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church wrap Christmas packages for needy families in Rochester's inner city. From left are Mrs. Robert Mariano, co-chairman of project sponsored by parish's social action committee; Sister Patricia Prinzing, RSM.; Mr. and Mrs. George Rentsch and family, and Father William J. Amann, assistant pastor.

Christmas - - A Time for Thoughtfulness

Numbers of groups in parishes throughout the diocese made Christmas a bit happier for needy families by delivering gift packages.

Typical of such thoughtful-

ness were members of the social action committee of Our Lady of Mercy Church on Denise Road. Their project was assisted by \$25 donations from the parish Holy Name and Rosary societies.

Committee members contacted "Spirit," a lay volunteer group of St. Bridget's Church, and obtained the names and addresses of 20 needy families, including the names and ages of all children. These were assigned to committee members, who provided and delivered both a Christmas dinner and gifts for each family member.

Keeping Up with Upkeep

Problems of a pastor were highlighted in the Dec. 27 Sunday bulletin of St. Monica's Church, Rochester, by Father Edward A. Zimmer, as follows:

"Within One Hour . . . Last week the following were reported to the pastor:

"The radiator burst in the north exit of the old school building and flooded the entrance; four ceiling blocks fell into the ABC nursery room . . . blocks were loosened by a leak in the floor above; there was no electricity coming into the kitchen appliances in the ABC center, first floor of the old school building; the hot water tank was not working; the lights were out in the second floor hallway of the same building; the children were freezing in the rooms on the south side of our school; the church boiler has gone crazy and won't turn off."

Local Church Music Blasted By Diocesan Director

"A deplorably impoverished musical program in our churches" has prompted the Diocesan Music Commission to issue a "position paper" on the use of music during liturgical ceremonies.

The commission, headed by Father Benedict Ehmann, described the paper as an affirmation of "some basic concepts and principles for the development of good liturgical music" in the diocese.

But Father Ehmann does not expect the commission's recommendations to be put into effect immediately. "After the Vatican Council you can't issue orders. . . You can only wait for the people to say: 'Here, we're not doing this right.'"

His personal estimation of local church music is "rather low".

Sent to all pastors and church musicians Dec. 15, the paper recommended, among other things, that pastors encourage

the establishment and development of choirs in each parish and promote congregational singing.

The commission also said that Gregorian Chant and organ music still have "priority of eminence in Church music" even though the commission also encourages "tasteful use of instrumental music".

Two recommendations made by the commission ask pastors to put more money into their musical programs.

The first recommendation says: "Each parish should seek out and employ with adequate remuneration a competent music director and/or organist," and the second: "Pastors might well consider the possibility of commissioning an original work by a competent composer to celebrate some special feast."

Methodist Woman Accepted As Third Order Associate

Elmira—The Methodist wife of a Catholic husband here has been accepted as a Franciscan Tertiary Associate in St. John

the Baptist Fraternity, Third Order of St. Francis.

The ceremony was conducted by Msgr. Leo G. Schwab, pastor emeritus of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, who is spiritual director of the fraternity. Approval had been obtained from the order's provincial headquarters in Yonkers.

Mrs. George (Carol) Gill still retains membership in the Grace United Methodist Church in Jamestown. While there before her marriage she sang in the choir and was a Sunday School teacher.

Since her marriage and her move to Elmira, Mrs. Gill attends St. Mary's Church with her husband, has taken Catholic instructions and has completed a number of courses in religion.

Last September George Gill was appointed minister prefect of the Franciscan fraternity, and need was expressed for someone to take over the recording secretary's work. He suggested that his wife might be interested. She attended meetings with her husband, and last September was appointed bulletin editor.

Co-op Extension Offers Consumer Information Tips

Monroe County Cooperative Extension has developed packets of facts and figures to provide the consumer with information on purchasing refrigerators, freezers, refrigerator-freezers, ranges, washers, dryers, dishwashers, disposers and small appliances.

If there's a move in your future, a packet containing information and articles on such subjects as "Steps to Take if You Are Moving", "How Children Feel about Moving", "Learn the New Rules on Long Distance Moving", and many helpful hints to make the chore easier, is also available.

These Home Study Packets are distributed by a library check-out system at no charge to the borrower.

Arrangements to borrow them may be made by calling Cooperative Extension, Home Economics Division, at (716) 473-9018, or by writing the Home Economics Division, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14620.

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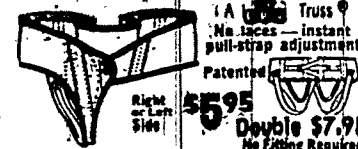
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