

Mrs. M Typical of the Lonely Ones at Christmas

Mrs. M has been alone for quite some time now. She used to enjoy the company of family and friends but time has claimed most of them. Others simply have moved to distant places.

She's not really impoverished. She has a small apartment, is able to cook (although she's lost most of her interest in it), and has a small television set to help while away the long evening hours.

Independence is her style but it comes with increasing difficulty and expense, especially for a woman in her 70s. So Mrs. M works on a part-time basis, as her health allows. The meager pay she receives coupled with a small Social Se-

curity check keeps her out of the welfare office. But she has on occasion turned to the Catholic Family Center for help, it

almost seems more out of a subconscious desire to make sure there are hands to reach out to than for any other reason.



This Christmas will be like many in recent years for Mrs. M. She'll work late Christmas Eve, giving others the chance to celebrate with their families. She'll come home to her apartment, sip at a cup of soup, watch some of the Christmas shows on television then go to bed, perhaps a bit later than her usual 10:30.

On Christmas morning she'll go to church early when not so many people will notice her worn cloth coat. She always has been religious and she thanks God for that especially on this day of days because Christmas day can seem unending for someone alone.

Mrs. M is not really a person, though she is a composite of

many that the Catholic Family Center tries to reach on Christmas with a warm greeting, a sign of love, perhaps a gift to remind them that they are important.

The Family Center, of course, also helps those with the more tangible problems of poverty, illness, and hunger. There are children who otherwise would not experience the simple act of love of a gift to note Christ's birthday. These problems become accentuated amidst a society of plenty.

The Courier-Journal Christmas Fund has been established as a way for you to help the Catholic Family Center. Your gifts or contributions may be

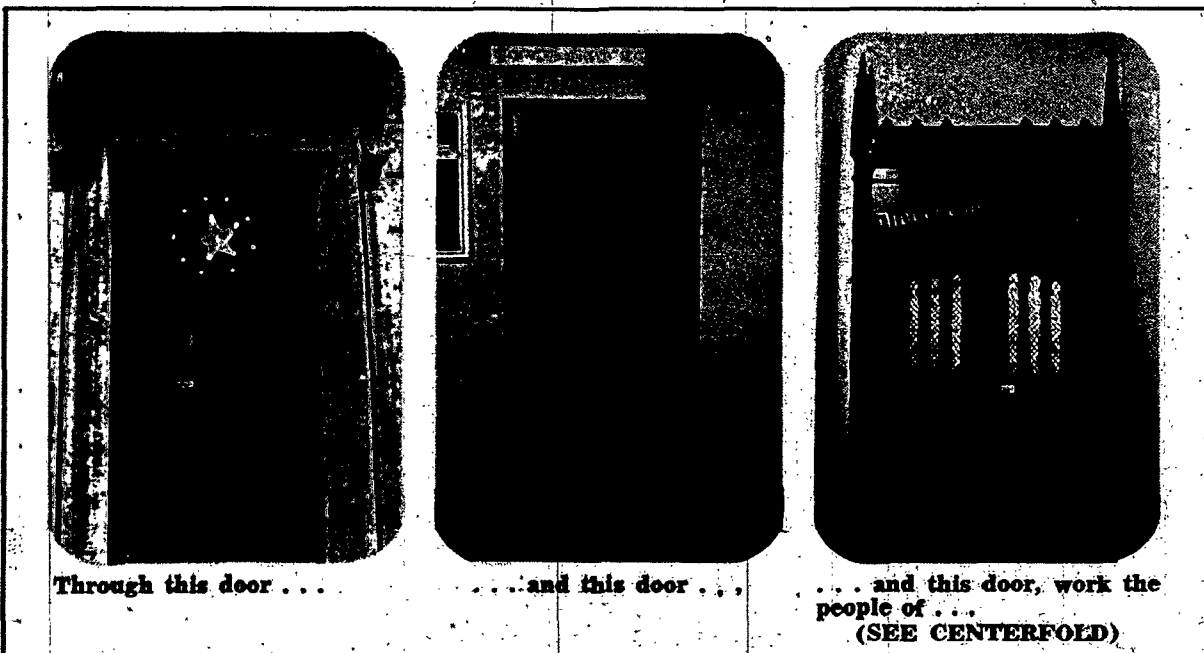
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The Hope of Christmas

"The light shines on in the dark, and the darkness has never mastered it."—John 1:5 NEB.

Artist Anthony LaGrossa has set the holy Family against today's disturbing headlines in a painting that appears on the cover of the December 1971 issue of Eternity magazine, illustrating the theme of hope that is essential to the spirit of Christmas. (RNS Photo)



Through this door . . .

. . . and this door . . .

. . . and this door, work the people of . . .

(SEE CENTERFOLD)

Neediest Families

16. Young J, an adolescent resident at one of the local hospitals, has been there for treatment of his emotional problems for well over three years. His father's whereabouts are unknown and his mother is a poor immigrant who has serious emotional problems herself and is unable to take care of her son. The rest of J's family is split up and in no position to care for him. His only income comes from a very small state allowance. If it were not for the generosity of others, young men like J would not be able to enjoy the warmth of Christmas day with the satisfaction of having received some kind of a gift.

17. Mrs. B's 43-year-old husband has been unable to work for the past three years. Two coronaries, in close succession, resulted from holding two jobs to support their seven children, ages 16 through 3. Mrs. B draws a minimal wage working at a privately owned dry-cleaning establishment. Her 3-year-old has a congenital spinal defect requiring constant medical attention.

Case being cared for by Father Sebastian.

18. Mrs. Z. lives with her seven children (ages 11 years to

8 months) in a 30-year-old, two-room trailer. Deserted by her alcoholic husband over two years ago, she faces a series of never-ending crises: scrimping a dollar here and there to purchase food stamps, keeping the four oldest school-age children in presentable clothes, traveling six miles back and forth to a laundromat. A washer is out of the question — it would take up more space than she can spare. Besides, the oldest boy must walk half a mile to get the family's daily supply of water, from the next farm.

Case cared for by Father Sebastian.

19. Mrs. D is the mother of 10 children whose father has been a weak and emotionally

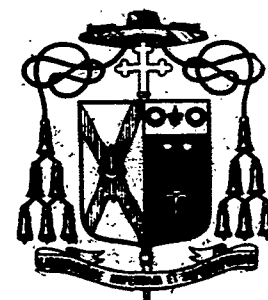
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Bishop Recovering

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is convalescing at his residence in Victor following successful surgery at Rochester General Hospital. According to a diocesan spokesman, "he is doing very well," and expects to resume his regular schedule at the end of December.

Diocesan

Appointments



Father Gilbert Wdzieczny, OFM, Cap, has replaced Father Lucian Young, OFM, Cap, as assistant pastor of St. Hyacinth Church, Auburn.

Father Thomas W. Burr to be assistant pastor at St. Ambrose, Rochester.