



Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

### Joy to the World

The 'Sunshine Sound,' made up of 5th through 8th graders from Our Lady of Perpetual Help school, sings its way through a concert given Thursday evening, Dec. 16 in Rochester's Midtown Plaza. Directing is Miss Mary Ann Papalia, music teacher at Perpetual Help. A selection of carols was sung.

# The Bishop's Christmas Letter

My Dear People,

Ours is an age deeply concerned with hope. We look longingly to a future of better days as we stand aghast at the horrors and ugliness of the present in which man's power to do evil seems to have been multiplied 100-fold by his new technological cleverness.

A Christian is by vocation a man of hope who awaits with longing expectation an endless life of better days in a Kingdom where the Lord will wipe away all tears and where as the Judge of all human history He will preside at an ultimate day of vindication and infallible decision on the worth of human values.

Meanwhile we live in a period of grace in which we have the power to celebrate the coming of the King and His conquest of man by love. Unlike the early Christians who lived with a sense of urgency because they expected an imminence of His final coming as judge of human history, we should be living with a sense of urgency because of the importance of His message.

The time of grace between the Now and Not Yet is the life span of the Trinity — but described as the community of those who while awaiting the final coming of the Lord accept with joy His birth at this Christmas of 1971 — with its challenge to proclaim the Message of Good News to those who await the Light to dispell the darkness of despair that enshrouds their seeming hopelessness.

The false urgency of the early Christians at times seems more attractive than our apathetic indifference to His coming. The truth of Christmas is this: God comes to us now and His coming is to be proclaimed through us with signs of His presence which assure man that the day of salvation announced by the prophet Isaiah has already arrived. What are these signs to look for?

St. Luke begins his account of the public life of Jesus by relating an incident in the synagogue of Nazareth where the Child of Bethlehem, himself to maturity in the home of Nazareth, applied to himself the words of the

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## Diocese Responds to the Poor

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

"When I read about that woman who had to pay commercial laundry prices because she was physically unable to do her own laundry, I decided to start doing it for her every week."

Not everybody has answered the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund with cash; the woman speaking above decided to offer assistance. When asked if she didn't consider such an offer an excessive burden, she replied:

"Of course not. I have to do my own family's laundry anyway, so I'll just throw hers in with it."

Another woman offered her fur coat to a needy woman.

Most people send checks or cash and often notes come in with the contributions to Catholic Charities.

"When I read of children who get absolutely nothing for Christmas it nearly broke my heart," wrote one contributor. "I can't send much but use it for children."

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Another said, "We don't have much but I can't bear to think of children who are completely left out at Christmas."

Another said, "I'm on a fixed income but I just have to share what I do have."

Most of the donations come in with no messages; some say things such as, "Please use this any way you see fit."

They exemplify Christianity at its finest, sharing what we have — material goods, love,

comfort—with others. The gifts themselves are important but even they may be outshone by the hope they hold out to other-wise destitute people. The meaning of a toy some child will receive may stay with him long after its material has disintegrated.

So any gift you send — money, food, clothing, a promise of future concern — will not only fill an immediate need but may generate enough warmth to last someone a life-

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time. Catholic Charities through the Catholic Family Center will see to it that it reaches those most in need.

The cases listed are all true and from all over the diocese. They, however, represent only a fraction of the total cases cared for by the Family Center. You are invited to contribute to individual cases but because some may receive a great deal of attention and others none at all, the center must use its discretion and ex-

pertise in reaching as many persons as possible.

Please use the address on Page 2A and make checks payable to Catholic Charities.

Father Sebastian Falcone, OFM, Cap., cares for cases in Wayne County and if you wish to contribute to those under his attention please use the alternate address on Page 2A.

Christmas is near, the mails are heavy, please act now.