



### War Orphan

A little girl takes a drink of water at the Hoi Duc Ann Orphanage in Saigon. She is one of the estimated 100,000 children in South Vietnamese orphanages. They all have loneliness in common. (RNS)

## Christmas Letter

(Continued from Page 1A.)

prophet Isaiah as the sign of His coming among us in this age of grace: (Isaiah - 61).

"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favor.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on Him. Then He began to speak to them: "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen." (Luke 4:16-22)

The challenge of Christmas as an enduring reality and not merely as one appointed hour in human history is this: God has come into the world and His coming as an enduring presence is to be known through us who offer the blessings of His presence as foretold by the prophet. The centerfold of this paper exemplifies some of these blessings which bring the world to an awareness of His coming among us.

I look forward with the depth of pastoral concern for a year of renewal of all our people to bring us to an awakened understanding of the reality of His birth which will make the Incarnation evident in our times.

Our vocation which is born of His entrance into our history finds truth and beauty are holier in the giving of a cup of cold water in His name, in the utterance of a word that bespeaks His love, in the patient endurance of hardship and injustice, in proclaiming liberty to those enslaved and in proclaiming in a multitude of ways that the Lord of the Universe has loved and embraced our humble condition.

May this Christmas help us to grasp what it means to go over to Bethlehem and kneel at the crib and learn the revelation made to us by a child long ago: "This is life eternal, to know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

I extend a blessed wish to you and yours with the assurance of my offering of my Christmas Masses for your intentions.

*Joseph L. Hagan*  
Your devoted Co-worker in Christ,

Courier-Journal

# Diocese's Neediest Families

31—Mr. and Mrs. F are on welfare, having experienced extreme hardship over the past year. Laid off from work in early December 1970, F slipped on a patch of ice while shoveling snow a week or so later. In addition to a back injury requiring hospitalization for five weeks, partial loss of hearing was sustained. Their five children range from 14 years of age to 3, one being slightly retarded.

Case cared for by Father Sebastian.

32—Christmas is the best time of the year. It is to be happy and joyous, but there are some people who just can't make it happy and joyous. They can't do everything they would like to because of problems. Mrs. T just lost her mother and is laid off from work. She has eight children. Her husband is the only one working and has a very limited income. It is hard for this family to make ends meet.

33—Mr. and Mrs. A just came from Cuba about two weeks ago. They need clothing. They are not working. They don't speak English and they don't know much about America. They have little clothing, household articles and supplies.

34—Mrs. M is a mother aged 44. She has one son who is 17 for whom she had to put up \$250 to get him released from jail. Their outlook on Christmas is very bleak, there just isn't any money. Mrs. M is on a very marginal income and she has no resources for many necessities.

35—"Home" to CC (late 70s) is an outdated but neatly kept trailer in an abandoned gravel pit. Arthritis and diabetes are his chief physical complications. Twice weekly he treks three miles to the nearest village to pick up food, medicine, an occasional letter from three daughters in distant states. Once a month he begs a 22-mile ride to a medical center for treatment. Asked what he wanted most last Christmas, he replied: "More meat in my diet. Lighter boots, for my feet are getting heavier each day. A TV set to pass the gosh-awful, lonely days!"

Courier readers, in their generosity last year, made all three possible.

Case cared for by Father Sebastian.

36—Mrs. T, 34, is a blind widow and mother of four. Her boys are 15 and 10 and her girls 11 and 8. This will be their first Christmas without a father and the extras children look forward to for Christmas.

37—Mr. B heads a family of six. They barely make it on what he earns. The father is 43 and the mother is 26. Four girls are 7, 6, 4 and 2 years of age. Their son is 5 months old. Mr. B would like his family to have toys, winter clothing and household articles.

38—Mr. and Mrs. A have seven children; six boys ranging from eight years to two months and one girl two years. Mr. A works but earns barely enough to provide this family with necessities. Very soon Mrs. A will be entering the hospital for an operation and her husband will have to stay home and take care of the children. This family could use toys and children's and adults' clothing.

39—An unskilled laborer with a total of four years of education. Mr. R, aged 24 was fired five times in four months during 1971. Factors: constant breakdown of his eight-year-old car, relative isolation of ramshackle farmhouse which he has rented since dropping out of the migrant stream in 1970 and his wife's many allergies. Welfare has helped greatly, but checks somehow seem to arrive latest when needed most. Last



Christmas was an especially bleak experience, with R having to borrow \$25 to buy meat and milk for his six-member family. The Rs are expecting their fifth child.

Case cared for by Father Sebastian.

40—Mrs. B has 11 children; five boys ranging in age from 15 to 1 year old and six girls ages 14 to 7. Mr. B deserted the family. She is also taking care of an orphan deaf mute girl, eight years old. The family lives in a four room apartment with little furniture. They could use toys, clothing, cooking utensils and household supplies.

41—Mrs. C is the mother of four children; three girls ages 10 years, 6 years and 7 months of age and one boy 2 years old. She is separated from her husband and is receiving assistance from the Monroe County Department of Social Services. She is in great need of clothing for the children, toys, and household supplies.

42—Mr. and Mrs. T have 11 children under 16 years of age. Mr. T works but his wages are barely sufficient to cover half the family's needs. The Monroe County Department of Social

Services supplement Mr. T's income. The two older children work during the summer to pay for some of their school clothing. Because of the poor condition of the home the heating bills are three times the heating allowance the family is given. Consequently the children are in need of warm clothing, shoes and toys for the youngest children.

43—Mrs. K, 70, lives in a small apartment in a project for the aged. Her only income is a small Social Security check which is supplemented by the Monroe County Department of Social Services. Because Mrs. K is a very short, heavy woman, it is difficult for her to buy clothing at prices allowed in her budget; her clothing has to be altered, which she cannot do because of poor eyesight. She is desperately in need of a winter coat and other items of clothing.

44—Mr. and Mrs. S have three children. Mrs. S has just had major surgery. She has had to have her three children in placement as she is not well enough to care for them. Mr. and Mrs. S receive full financial assistance as he cannot find a job. Although they do not have the children with them, they want to be able to remember the girl with a doll and the two teenage boys with a little something.

45—Mr. and Mrs. W are in their early forties. Mrs. W has a terminal illness. She is heavily sedated and her medication is very expensive. The family's income is marginal. They want to have a few gifts under the tree for their 7-year-old boy. It will mean much to this family to have a happy Christmas together.

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Page 2-A