

# Don't Forget the Needy and the Lonely

Many of the neediest cases in the diocese are so poignant they need little more than the telling to elicit the concern of others. Such as:

- Children, wide-eyed and excited as are all youngsters at this time of the year, who will arise Christmas morning with no evidence that this day is different from any other.

- Old people who have known the warmth of Christmas but who now live isolated and lonely lives and who will go through Christ's birthday, perhaps without anyone, even for conversation.

- Broken-hearted parents, aware of what Christmas means for most, who cannot even manage the simplest attempt at celebration for their children; who worry how they will explain things to their youngsters.



And in addition to the other accidents of fate, such as injuries, illnesses, this year many diocesans have been crippled by the flood. All their efforts, financial and physical, must go

into the simple act of trying to restore routine to their lives. They need special help this Christmas.

There also are those with

other problems, not so soul-wrenching, but still definitely in need when you think about it.

Take Mr. J. and his 8-year-old son. J. has spent several years fighting alcoholism and was well on his way to rehabilitation when a physical disability struck him low. Unable to work and now on welfare, he is determined to continue to make a home for his son and him and to provide the love and security for his boy that he lacked in his own childhood. A Christmas remembrance will bolster J.'s confidence.

All of the cases listed among the neediest in the diocese are true. They, however, represent only a fraction of the total case-load being handled by the Catholic Family Center. You are invited to contribute to individual cases but because some may receive a great deal of attention

and others none, the center must use its expertise in aiding as many as possible.

This is the fourth year for the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund, conducted in conjunction with Catholic Charities. Any gift you send — money, food, clothing, toys, a promise of future concern — will reach those who need it most through the Catholic Family Center.

All contributions should be sent to:

Courier-Journal Christmas Fund  
Care of Catholic Charities  
50 Chestnut St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

In order to help as many of the needy as possible for Christmas, the Courier-Journal has started its fund earlier than ever this year. Remember Christmas mail is heavy and slow, so act now.

## Neediest Cases

Mrs. M. lives by herself on the south side of Elmira. She has raised a family and recently lost a husband. Soon after his death the flood struck and she lost her home that she and her husband had worked all their lives for. Her needs are greater than can be comprehended.

times. Her husband is epileptic and has had three major nervous breakdowns. His unemployment has been a major factor in their financial problems. Mr. B. is in the State Hospital now, and Mrs. B. has no hopes for providing her four children with Christmas gifts this year.

Mr. R. is awaiting trial. Mrs. R. and family are waiting for Mr. R. His bail is too high for release before trial which is after Christmas. Mrs. R. works part-time and was saving for Christmas until her 12-year-old car fell apart. Mrs. R. bought a used car for her total savings of \$75. She needs a car for work and must forsake Christmas presents for her job. Mrs. R. has six children, ages 2 to 13.

Johnny is waiting for Santa Claus to come to town this year. We hope he does. Johnny is the youngest of seven. He has multiple sclerosis and is retarded. The program he is in at the Center has been a great help to him. His father left home several months ago and his mom spends much of her earnings on his care and special needs. Johnny would be happy if his four other brothers and sisters saw Santa come to town this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. have been married 50 years. Their golden anniversary passed with Mr. Z. and Mrs. Z. celebrating alone. Mr. Z. has been unable to care for his home the past few years and the leaking roof forced them to make the living room into a bedroom. Mr. and Mrs. Z. used space heaters to heat their home. The coal furnace is too expensive to fix. Mr. and Mrs. Z. would be happily surprised if their furnace was fixed or if they had more food in their cupboards.

Mrs. G. is an elderly diabetic who lives in a small housekeeping room, a competent manager of her Social Security check she is able to provide for her daily needs. Gifts and money for the holiday season will brighten her life.

Mrs. B. tries to be a good mother but it seems so hard some-

Mrs. Z., a family of two — mother and son. The mother is an elderly woman with a heart condition who is caring for her mentally retarded son. They have difficulty managing even simple

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### Thanksgiving Starts Holidays

Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Thanksgiving gifts were the center of last Thursday's Thanksgiving Day Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, at which Bishop Joseph L. Hogan called attention to the recently introduced liturgy for the day. Around the table from left are Father James B. Cooney, Father Michael Conboy, Bishop Hogan, Father Daniel Holland, director of the Year of Renewal, and Father Thomas Wheeland.

## Timely Columns Plus Some Off-Beat Stories

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With so many diocesans involved either in establishing parish councils or in updating existing ones, Bernard Lyons' weekly Courier-Journal column "Your Parish Council" has been gaining in popularity.

This week, Lyons answers some of his mail seeking ways to make parish life more spiritual. On Page 6, it makes for timely reading. If you have any questions on parish councils send them to Bernard Lyons, care of the Courier-Journal.

We have never thought of Sarah Child as being "too women-libberish" but that's exactly what one reader says about her. Sarah's answer on PAGE 18 makes for provocative reading on a subject that's entered into all of our lives.

A couple of off-beat stories add spice to this week's edition. Barbara Moynehan interviews a Moslem living at St. Bernard's Seminary (PAGE 7) and also has a report on religious planning for "new town" Riverton (PAGE 15.)

Finally, photojournalist Laurence E. Keefe sticks his weathered neck out to bring you a centerfold on the early arrival of winter. We hope our readers won't be too harsh on him if sunny weather makes such scenes obsolete by publication date. In that case regard his work as a sure prediction of things to come.