

A Mother and Her Christmas Sacrifice

Many of the contributions to the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund are accompanied by short notes expressing the senders' sentiment at this special time of the year.

They usually reflect the fact that Christ's birthday will be celebrated in the best manner possible — by people showing concern for their brethren.

One such letter arrived this week, signed simply, "A Mother". The writer began by describing her own life. With a large family, including children-in-law and grandchildren, the father permanently and totally disabled, she began to see herself as an unfortunate.

"However, as I read the case histories I realized just how many blessings we do have and



I cannot face another Christmas Eve as spiritually bereft as I've been in the past.

"We have a warm, comfortable

home, plenty of food and clothing, educational opportunities have opened up for the younger children; they are all in good

health and most of them possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

"I have lived to see some of my 'fallen-away' children return to God. When I stop to count my blessings, I am ashamed not to make a sacrifice. From now until Christmas, I hope to be able to send you small amounts of money which when totaled may provide some pleasure for some helpless person. Being selfish, I ask some prayers in return."

The obvious Christianity inherent in this letter needs no embellishment. The cases the letter writer refers to are listed weekly in the Courier-Journal until Christmas.

This year, in addition to all the usual unfortunate cases, the fund is including families from the Southern Tier whose lives have been ravaged by the June floods.

All of the cases listed are true. They, however, represent only a fraction of the total caseload being handled by 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.

In order to help as many of the needy as possible for Christmas, please remember that holiday mail is slower.

Bishop Hogan: Black Apostolate Needs Your Help

My dear People,

Each parish has a unique history and a unique character. Any one of us can recognize the special customs that have been traditional in the parishes of Irish, Italian, German and Polish origin as each wave of immigrants brought its own rich heritage to the Catholic Church in this country.

In the past ten years Monroe County has been blessed with a rapidly growing Black population. Black people have a unique and rich religious heritage to offer. I would like to see this heritage developed within the Catholic Church. To accomplish this we need Black vocations, Black cultural and religious education programs, Black liturgical development. The large Catholic Churches in the heart of our city have so few members. For a long time to come I hope they will continue to be centers of genuine religious life for all peoples.

Will you help by your generous contributions to shape this apostolate in our diocese and throughout the country.

With my blessing, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Pitching In

Msgr. George W. Eckl, the 95-year-old pastor emeritus of St. Andrew's Church, Rochester, swings a hammer as part of that parish's "Operation Rebuild" project at the flood damaged Corning home of Nicholas Buchko. For other pictures of the project, See PAGE 2.

Photo by F. L. Cervello

NEEDIEST CASES

Mrs. Z. and her seven children are in desperate need not only of Christmas dinner and toys but also clothing and furniture. The chronic illness of two of the children and their needs are a drain on Mrs. Z.'s limited income.

Mrs. H. is a diabetic and has poor circulation in her legs. Her husband died a year ago leaving her with their five children, ages 8 to 2. This family is in need of a Christmas dinner plus clothing for the children and bed linen, blankets and curtains for the home.

Mrs. B. is a widow with seven children and a granddaughter in the home. She is receiving financial help from the County Department of Social Services. This family has many expenses not met in their budget and this leaves them in need of clothing, toys and a Christmas dinner.

Mrs. T. is separated from her husband whose whereabouts are unknown. Mrs. T. has seven children, two of whom are in foster homes because they are mentally retarded. They do visit their mother weekends and other special days. One of these special days is Christmas and this family is in need of Christmas dinner and toys.

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Abortion No Laughing Matter

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Abortion is not a laughing matter, as many of our readers have pointed out in the wake of a recent television show. Our TV critic, Pat Costa, discusses the matter and offers advice on what to do about it. PAGE 16.

Meanwhile, Religious News Service has a news analysis which suggests that the tide has been turned against liberalized abortion in many parts of the country. PAGE 21.

How does a major Catholic agency react to the Year of Renewal? On PAGE 10, Father Joseph D'Aurizio, director of Catholic Charities, discusses the application of renewal to his department.

And more on the Year of Renewal. Auburn correspondent Mary Ann Ginnerty finishes her series on personnel involved in the Year of Renewal in the Cayuga-Seneca Region. PAGE 23.