

Christmas Is Near, Help Needy Now

See Centerfold for Cases

"Her needs are greater than can be comprehended."

This statement could apply to hundreds of needy people in our diocese, as anyone who has been reading the cases printed in the Courier-Journal over the past three weeks can testify.

This particular comment happened to apply to Mrs. M., a woman in the south side of Elmira, who lost her husband not too long before Hurricane Agnes. The flood then washed away the home she and her husband had taken a lifetime to put together.

A reader, in sending her contribution to Catholic Charities, identified with the Elmiran.



"I also live by myself."

"I also have lost my husband."

"But I have the home that we worked all our lives to obtain, and if I did not, I could not live in the modest comfort I do."

"Each Christmas time, I give what I can to someone who needs it, in memory of my husband, and of my father and mother and brother."

"This year I would like to know that it will help, in some way, Mrs. M."

This year we have expanded the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund to include those in the Southern Tier who have been victimized by the flood.

You may contribute money but other things also are needed — toys to kindle children's joy, clothing to last through the long winter, blankets, etc. — anything to make Christmas come alive with someone left aside.

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 receive a great deal of attention and others none, the center must use its expertise in aiding as many as possible.

Christmas is at hand. Act now.

Contributions should be sent to:

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



Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

'Merry Christmas, Bishop!'

Retired Bishop James E. Kearney listens, above, as Sister Joseph Mary, SSND, conducts students from Bishop Kearney High School in a special program presented for him at his residence. Christmas songs made up the December 11 performance put on by the Kings Singers and the Girls' Chorus and Vocal Class.

Professional Study Urges Diocesan Planning Board

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The result of Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Board's three month, \$3,500 study of the diocese was reported and discussed last night at DeSales High School, Geneva.

More than 100 priests, sisters and lay people, many of whom had been interviewed during the survey, heard Richard Morales of G/F/L summarize the 47-page report and strongly recommend that an Office of Diocesan Planning be established.

Contracted to explore the feasibility of creating a planning office to help deal more effectively with identified problems, G/F/L gathered data during unestimated hours of interviews, and from 1970 Census records.

They informed the leaders of the diocese that there are 10 major areas of concern in this 7,455 square mile area where 1,397,775 people live. The median age is 27.5 years.

In order of priority, the 10 areas that warrant immediate attention are planning, education, training of personnel, establishing a decision-making process, regionalism, services, communication, finances, liturgy and other specific needs.

The admittedly "problem oriented" report recommends that a series of seven studies be undertaken by an office of planning in its first year in order to develop a framework for decision making that is now missing.

Some members of the Priests' Council see this report as a Pandora's Box, while others in the diocesan offices fear it will be shelved and unheeded.

A decision must come by March 1, however, on the main recommendation, establishment of a diocesan planning office, if this is to be written into the budget.

McCurdy's

most people are Moppets at heart

... wanting to say nice things, getting tongue tied and never doing it. These precious child figurines say it for you, with messages like — "I love you," "There's nothing we can't solve together," and so on, \$7 and \$12. Couldn't be more in the spirit of caring and sharing and Christmas.

Just the sort of very special gifts you'll find for very special people in McCurdy's Some thing Special Shop, Second Floor, Midtown.



An Unusual Christmas Story

Columnist George Beahon, never one to conform to cliché sportswriting, this week takes readers back to another time, another place in a story full of adventure, pathos, and finally joy.

For what we feel may be the finest piece of original Christmas writing you'll come across this year, turn to PAGE 7 for "A Christmas Story... the Leaper and the Gestapo."

Disenchantment seems to be growing with some of the hectic practices associated with modern-day Christmases. Charles Randisi asks a sampling of readers what they do about sending Christmas cards (PAGE 8) and Sarah Child flatly warns friends and foe alike that hereafter she's going to return to simpler methods of noting Christ's birthday (PAGE 22).



Yes, that's our Barbara Moynehan toiling in the toy department of McCurdy's to bring you a look at Christmas from the other side of the cash register. Her report is on Page 7.