

Misfortune, Frustration, Despair Mark Cases

Many of the 100 neediest cases in the diocese reported to the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund by the Catholic Family Center reveal extreme hardship and reversal.

For instance, take the case of Mrs. S., whose husband died and who lost all the family belongings (she has six children) to a fire. All within this year.

Or consider Mrs. Q. With her husband in the hospital, her furnace broke down. Catholic Family Center helped her with cost of repair but her budget is strained and she has little to brighten her husband's



prospective visit home for the holidays.

While not all the cases are so dramatic, they are still heart-rending. Many are immersed in the frustrating and bitter pools of depression and loneliness.

Mr. A. is 69 years old and

lonely. His family lives far off and he feels forgotten by them. He lives in the inner city and depends on Catholic Family Center to bring some joy and hope into his life at Christmas.

Many of the cases represent people hard put to maintain their pride. Mrs. X. is divorced and is working two jobs to support herself and seven children. She has managed to hold her head up in meeting monthly expenses but gets discouraged at holiday time when she can do nothing to make Christmas come alive for herself and children.

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100 Neediest Cases In Diocese

[Continued from Last Week]

12 Mary is 70 years old, and quite depressed over her living conditions. She has tried for four years to get another apartment as she is paying \$110 per month for a shabby studio apartment. She is frail, has rheumatoid arthritis and just drags herself around with the aid of a cane. She is very meek and scared. Her total income per month is \$140, giving her little

buying power. She doesn't have any presentable clothes and doesn't bother to eat much of the time as it takes her 20 minutes to walk to the nearest store, and then she is only able to carry a half bag of groceries home. Mary needs money for suitable clothing and food. Catholic Family Center.

13 Until recently, Guiseppe, age 74, lived alone in one room.

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Diocesan Planner . . . Now He Begins

By CHARLES RANDISI

Moving into a totally undeveloped position is nothing new to Father Peter Bayer.

In August 1972, after The Flood, he designed, maintained, and directed the relief operations of the Office of Human Development in Corning.

Now he's back in Rochester as the first director of the new diocesan Office of Planning. His first day on the job was Thursday, Nov. 15.

Except for a few books on management, a desk, a telephone, and a glass prism his friends and associates from Corning gave him as a farewell gift, his new office at the Pastoral Center was bare.

But no longer is he operating out of a school basement (St. Patrick's, Corning), where the major problem, if one was working late, was getting past the bingo players in the adjoining auditorium.

Father Bayer described his feelings about his first day as

planning director as "completely different than anything I've ever experienced . . . It's so much larger here."

He said that in Corning, where the office and staff were smaller, he had "much more control" over his job.

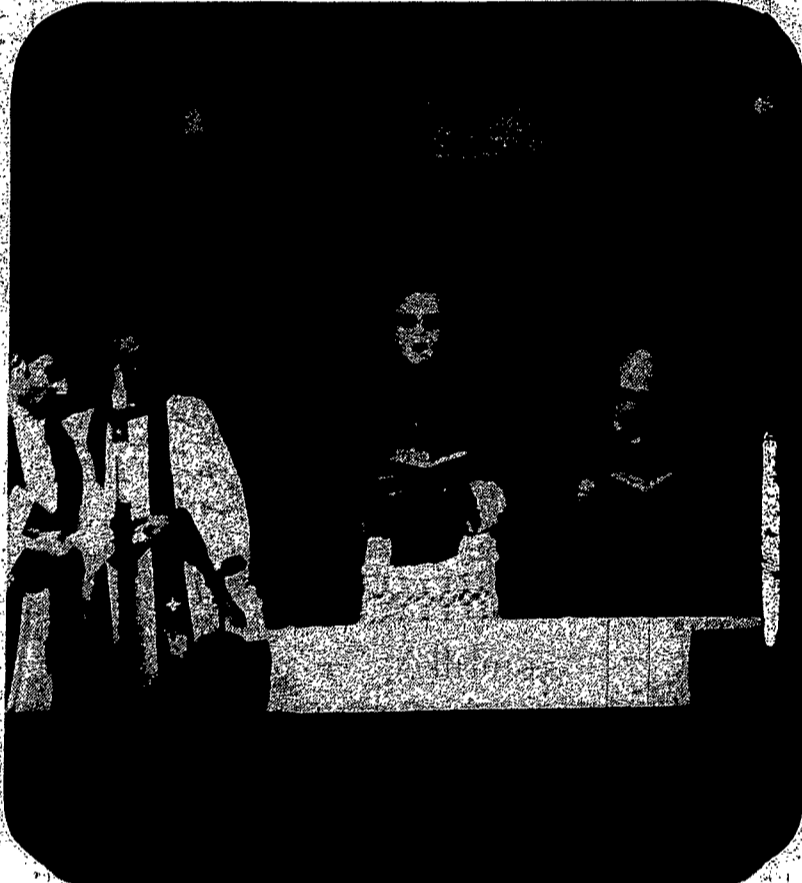
The Office of Planning was set up by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and the Interdepartmental Staff to help the bishop and the various diocesan departments in planning, including identification of goals, trends and the appropriate adjustment of services. It took Father Daniel Brent and an ad hoc committee most of four months to find the right man for the job.

More than 50 applicants were interviewed, most of them laymen. Father Bayer said that he applied because of "the challenge. It was something brand new . . . I'd like to see what this office could do, where it could go. In the light of Vatican II, how are we going to coordinate those goals with the work of the diocese?"

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Photos by Dave Witbeck



Giving Thanks

An ecumenical service of thanksgiving was held Wednesday, Nov. 21, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Among the celebrating churchmen were Rev. Bruce Hanson [left], St. Luke's rector; Rev. Paul Young, Lutheran; Bishop Joseph L. Hogan; Rev. Claire Potter, United Church of Christ.

Lights Out, Heat Down for Diocesan Buildings

By SHARON DARNIEDER

President Nixon's recent pleas to conserve fuel have not fallen on deaf ears. Thousands of people have complied with his requests by reducing heat in homes and by cutting back on gasoline consumption.

He has little to worry about when it comes to the diocese of Rochester too.

Whether a parish heats buildings by gas or oil or both, pastors and high school principals throughout the diocese are turning down thermostats like everyone else. In fact, for most, it's been an ongoing thing.

As Father Anthony Calimeri, pastor of St. Jerome's in East Rochester, put it, "We're always comfortable, but we've been

economically oriented like this for years."

His buildings use gas and oil and he added that since the fuel shortage was pointed out "we've turned down the rectory thermostat to 66. We were already at 68," he said with a good natured laugh.

As far as schools are concerned, apparently there aren't any serious problems yet, according to Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent.

"We would urge and expect that diocesan schools would comply with the President's suggestion," he said.

He also said his office will be taking an over-all look at the school calendar in the near future, "but we don't know at this

point if there are any calendar adaptations we can use" (to cut down on heat and electricity usage in schools.)

The diocese offers a central purchasing arrangement for fuel through Independent Gas and Oil Co., said John Ritzenthaler, diocesan comptroller, but not all parishes use it.

Many contract for fuel on their own. However, even if they do get it through the diocesan contract, they are still responsible for payment and are billed on an individual basis through the diocese by the company.

The contract is usually renewed in late Spring each year. This is the diocese's second year with Independent.

According to Ritzenthaler, this year they were unable to get a fixed dollar contract as they have in the past. This means they pay for fuel when it's delivered and not before.

"We've had to take the same increase as everybody else," he said, "and although we're paying more money per gallon at the present time than before, we're still lower than an individual in cost because we buy in larger quantities."

Mother of Sorrows in Greece is

one of the many parishes which obtains oil through the diocesan contract. It's used in the school and convent and gas in the church and rectory.

A new church enables Father George Wood, pastor, to do things other parishes would like to do but can't because of lack of space.

"The whole concept seven years ago when the church was being built was to conserve heat and light," he said.

Off to one side is a Mother's Chapel where weekday Masses and small weddings are held. This cuts down on heat and light in the big church, and often makes the Mass more personal to a smaller number of people, Father Wood said.

In addition, zoned heating is used so heat can be increased or decreased in various areas according to need.

Msgr. Richard Burns of St. Thomas the Apostle has also made an effort to cut down.

"We've called in our heating firm to ask how we can use the system more efficiently," he said, "and we'll try to follow their suggestions."

Like other parishes with

schools, he's encouraging parents to send children to school warmly dressed.

His two school buses fill their tanks at local service stations, so he isn't too worried about a gasoline shortage, at least right now.

But what about parishes and parochial high schools which depend on public school buses to get pupils to and from school?

Gates-Chill Central School District provides transportation for some of these students. They have 63 school buses serving about 9,400 pupils (public and parochial), according to Peter Morris, director of transportation.

"We haven't encountered a shortage of gas for the buses yet," he said, "but we may run into a financial problem because our contract is up at the end of the month."

The county contract is being worked on with Chevron Oil Co. and Morris pointed out that like others who renewed contracts recently, they were unable to get a fixed dollar contract as they had in previous years.

"The new contract looks like we'll be paying almost twice the amount we payed last year to

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