

**But Time Is Short**

# Christmas Fund Has Good Start

The Courier-Journal Christmas Fund has gotten off to a joyous start and that bodes well for thousands of impoverished, lonely, and calamity-struck people throughout the diocese who are helped by Catholic Charities.

"We started the fund drive earlier this year because the last edition of the Courier-Journal before Christmas will be Dec. 19. Since this is quite a chunk of time before Christmas and will be our last chance to publicize the fund in the Courier, we decided to begin earlier," explained Anthony J. Costello, Courier-Journal General Manager.

He added that response to the early start has been good and adds that "this is doubly gratifying because it will give Catholic Charities the opportunity to plan better their distribution."

Costello asks potential contributors to give early and not run the risk of forgetting the needy.

"We already are into December and time is getting short for the opportunity to give someone hope at Christmas which they might not otherwise have," Costello added.

All of the 100 neediest cases in the diocese are true. They, however, represent only a fraction of the total caseload cared for by Catholic Charities

through its member agency, the Catholic Family Center.

Readers 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.

Donations of money or of clothes, food, toys should be sent to:

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

**GAZETTE**

**Walworth** — The Mission of Communications of St. Gregory's Parish sent parishoners their first copy of the new parish newsletter, St. Gregory's Gazette. Since the formation of their Parish Council, last spring, there seemed to be too much parish news to fit into the weekly bulletin, hence, the Gazette. The Gazette contains reports from the various council committees, CCD news, and items about parish social life. Michael Gardner is the parish coordinator of communications and Darlene Jones is chairman. The committee covers many other areas of communication within the parish besides the newspaper and has over a dozen people.

# 100 Neediest Cases In Diocese

[Continued from Last Week]

**39** Mrs. D. is a 53-year-old handicapped grandmother who is caring for her four orphaned grandchildren, between the ages of five and twelve. The children are devoted to her and she keeps alive, for them, the image of their parents. Her support has helped them cope with their feelings of loss and loneliness. Catholic Family Center.

**40** Mrs. E. is a widowed mother caring for four children ages 9 to 13. She is supported from Social Security and a supplement from the Welfare Department. A fire recently destroyed much of their personal possessions. Clothing, toys and a Christmas dinner can go a long way in helping lift the family's spirit. Catholic Family Center.

**41** Janet was born Nov. 9. Her mother is 18 years old and is working very hard to make a home for herself and Janet. She was able to get a crib and a few clothes for Janet but the mother will continue to need guidance, support and a bright Christmas will give her encouragement and happiness. Catholic Family Center.

**42** Margaret is hoping for a new wheelchair for Christmas. Margaret, 10, was born with a hip problem that will probably never allow her to walk. Her most recent operation was helpful, but not quite enough. Margaret does have a wheelchair now but it was loaned to her. It's for an adult so it doesn't fit her — and sometimes the wheels fall off! We would like to have a brand new "super" wheelchair for Margaret. Because of the cost and the



necessity of fitting the chair to Margaret's needs, we are asking for small donations toward the cost of the chair. Catholic Family Center.

**43** Elizabeth lives alone in a 4th floor apartment. She is 86, and her only living relative is a niece, who comes to visit infrequently. Most of the time she hasn't any heat. Recently she has been applying for a new place to live, but her biggest problem is that she doesn't have sufficient income to apply for subsidized rent in the Senior Citizens developments. So she can't even move until we help to secure some public assistance. She has very few clothes, little furniture, and eats very little as she can't afford to buy food. Catholic Family Center.

**44** Sarah lives alone in a dilapidated 3rd floor apartment. The heat is turned off when the superintendent wishes, so often Sarah is wrapped up in a sweater and bathrobe and is cold. She had an operation last year and needs another. To complicate her problems she has no way to get to the doctor. Sarah needs a Christmas filled with generous gifts to lift her spirits and provide for her in the new year. Catholic Family Center.

**45** Mrs. C. lives by herself and exists on an extremely limited budget. Her husband remarried and had custody of her children.

She must work with a low paying income and barely makes it from week to week. Recently she has been hospitalized and is in great debt because of this. A gift would help us to make a bright spot for her during the Christmas holidays. Catholic Family Center.

**46** Paul, a 15-year-old boy from a fatherless family, will be away from his mother and younger brother this Christmas. He was recently placed in a State Training School and is not yet eligible for a visit home. Both he and his mother long to spend Christmas Day together but since she is on welfare she cannot scrape together enough money for bus fare. It would really mean a great deal to this boy, who is trying to make a new start, to see his mother and little brother for Christmas. Catholic Family Center.

**47** Mrs. A., a young mother trying to maintain a home for her 8 and 16-year-old sons, wonders how she can manage to save enough from her very limited income to purchase Christmas gifts. The younger boy (who still believes in Santa Claus) is hoping for toys. The older boy would like (but knows he probably won't get) a record player. Catholic Family Center.

**48** Mr. and Mrs. F. have had many medical expenses this past year and are facing a bleak Christmas. Mr. F. underwent serious surgery and was unable to work for several months. Mrs. F. is chronically ill and their medical bills are high. Their only son is in the service of his country and will not be home for Christmas. They will need some financial remembrance to help them enjoy the holidays. Catholic Family Center.

[More cases next week]

# Behold Your Mother

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love for her. The Gospels summon us all to recognize the special place the Mother of Jesus has in God's plan for the salvation of mankind. The teachings of Popes and Councils lead us to an ever clearer understanding of Mary's privileged position in the Church. Singular honor has been given her in piety, art, music and literature. Surely this Catholic tradition is a fulfillment of her prophecy: "All ages to come shall call me blessed" (Lk: 1:48).

In order to serve better the current needs of men, the Church seeks to adapt herself to the widespread social and cultural changes of our time. Nevertheless, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she must preserve intact the divine message which she has received from Christ. This includes the special role of Mary in the mystery of the salvation of the human race. Through this letter we hope to reaffirm our heritage of faith in Mary, the Mother of God, and to encourage authentic devotion to her.

First of all, we should clearly understand that the Second Vatican Council in no way downgraded faith in or devotion to Mary. On the contrary, the eighth chapter of the Constitution on the Church is a clear and penetrating account of Catholic teaching on the Blessed Mother of God. Other ages have erected shrines and temples in her honor. This chapter, fashioned from the inspired texts of Sacred Scripture, the teachings of early Christian writers, and the practice and prayer life of the Church, is in reality a beautiful spiritual shrine in which the Mother of Jesus is honored and from which she continues to speak to us with a mother's loving concern. Our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, has repeatedly affirmed the position of the Council. He called the chapter on Our Lady "a vast synthesis of Catholic doctrine" concerning her place in the mystery of Christ and His Church. He also recalled that she was the heavenly patroness to whom Pope John entrusted the Council.

These words of ours are the preamble to our Pastoral Letter on Our Lady. We have called upon dedicated theologians to aid us in restating the teachings of the Church about her. Here again the Council documents have guided

our approach. We hope and pray that our presentation will be a subject for serious study and loving reflection. We desire with all our hearts that it be received into homes and rectories and seminaries, into schools and institutes of higher learning, into adult education groups, confraternity centers, campus ministries and religious communities.

The intercession of Mary extends not only to individuals but to the whole community of believers. She has a place in the ongoing work of redemption, which has as its goal, "to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship" (Eph. 1:10). The full sense of Mary's role is summed up in the title Pope Paul gave her, "Mother of the Church." Because of her divine maternity, Mary stands in a unique relationship with her Savior and her Son. Believing and obeying, she brought forth on earth the Father's Son . . . whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, namely, the faithful. In their birth and development she cooperates with a maternal love.

Sometimes anxiety is expressed that devotion to Mary may detract from the position of Jesus, our one Lord and Mediator. Such fear is unfounded. The more we know and love Mary, the more surely will we know and love Jesus and understand His mission in the world. It is also true that the more we know Jesus and love Him, the better we will appreciate His Mother's place in God's plan for man's redemption. This is the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. Her motherly intercession, the Council made clear, in no way diminishes the unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power. God's free choice is the reason for Mary's place in the plan for our redemption. She is totally dependent on her Son. Commenting on the words of the Council, Paul VI declared: "Devotion to the Virgin Mother of God does not stop with her, but has to be regarded as a help which of its very nature leads men to Christ."

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, this is the faith we share with you:

We honor Mary as the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word of God. We recognize her unique and exalted role in the redemption her Son brought to men. We love Mary. We try to imitate her virtues of faith, purity, humility and conformity to the will of God, which are part of the very texture of the Gospel message.

We acknowledge that devotion to Mary, the joyful duty of all of us, has a special function in exalting the dignity of woman and fostering respect for her person. We believe in the power of Mary's intercession to bring us, as individuals and as a community, under the influence of Christ's redeeming mercy.

With all the affection of our hearts and the full submission of our minds to the truths of our holy Faith, we repeat the Church's familiar words in praise of the Mother of Jesus:

Blessed be the great Mother of God,  
Mary most holy,  
Blessed be her holy and  
Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary,  
Virgin and Mother.

United with our Holy Father, we proclaim once more the pre-eminent position of Mary in "the mystery of Christ and the Church." We urge the restoration and renewal of the ancient love of Christendom for the Mother of the Lord as a tribute to lay tenderly at her feet. In this Holy Year, we pray that she may fill the hearts of all men with peace and lead them to know and love Jesus Christ, her Son, and to share in the abundant fruits of His redemption.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States

The entire 55-page Pastoral Letter issued by the U.S. bishops is available from Family Rosary for Peace, 401 Orange St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. Only mail requests will be honored.