

The Key to Christmas Drive Is Love

While the main idea of the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund is to raise money and gifts of food, clothing, toys and such to brighten Christmas for the needy, another aspect of the work done by Catholic Family Center also is important. That is service.

Two years ago the Catholic Family Center included in the Courier-Journal drive a plea for services for elderly shut-ins. The response was "tremendous," according to the center.

"We've had dedicated people doing grocery shopping, housecleaning and laundry, plus a little extra. They're bringing magazines and chatting, bringing the outside world a little closer."



So if you have some time and would like to brighten the days of a shut-in, give yourself as a Christmas offering.

Those who already have done so are examples of the element of human concern created by the annual Christmas appeal. A sign of this is revealed in a letter on our Opinion Page this week.

Mrs. Barbara Fischer, in a reverse sentiment, reminds all of the worth and importance of the needy themselves.

Addressing remarks to those included among the 100 neediest cases, she says, "I have known your ability to encourage those around you with a marvelous sense of humor, a kind word, a smile, love, leadership of the strongest kind and especially prayer."

So while we contribute to the best of our ability money to give a family a true Christmas, or necessities such as blankets, or playthings to brighten a child's heart, let us also remember that we all can share in the gift of love

which will melt away the chill of loneliness and despair.

Reports indicate a healthy flow of contributions to date, mostly because of this year's early start. Time has a way, however, of flying away amidst all the busy activities that Christmas brings for most of us. We must not forget those for whom Christmas could be just another cold and lonely day, perhaps made even worse in contrast to festive surroundings.

The 100 neediest cases listed in the Courier-Journal are all true and are all in the diocese. They, however, represent only a fraction of the total caseload cared for by Catholic Charities,

through its Catholic Family Center agency.

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.

Contributions of money or of clothing, food, toys, etc., should be sent to:

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

Act now. Time is short to coordinate your gifts with Christmas.

100 Neediest Cases In Diocese

(Continued from Last Week)

49 Mrs. G. has three children: two boys ages 13 and 10, and a girl age 12. Mrs. G.'s husband deserted her some years ago and she receives financial support from the Monroe County Department of Social Services. This family hopes for a Christmas dinner and warm clothing for the children. Catholic Family Center.

50 Mrs. Y. is a widow with five children, ages 5-14 years. She is receiving financial assistance



from the County Department of Social Services. It is difficult for her to buy adequate clothing for her children and frequently the children do not want to go to school because of their shabby clothing. This family needs clothing and also a Christmas dinner. Catholic Family Center.

51 Mr. M. is a 30-year-old man whose wife deserted him, leaving him with many debts. Because most of his money is used to pay his bills on time, he cannot afford suitable clothing for the office position that he desperately is trying to maintain. Catholic Family Center.

52 Miss G. is 20 and is attending college on a scholarship. This scholarship leaves little money after school expenses are met. Her parents are both alcoholic and neither can nor will do

anything to help her. She would appreciate anything we could do. Catholic Family Center.

53 Mrs. X. is 39 and has six children 3 to 11 years of age. Her husband died two years ago and the family is supported by Social Security benefits plus a small supplemental grant from the Monroe County Department of Social Services. The family would greatly appreciate a Christmas dinner and clothing for the children. Catholic Family Center.

54 Mr. M. is a working man with a wife and seven children. He is a steady worker but does not earn enough to support the family. The Monroe County Department of Social Services provides supplemental help to the family. The children are 15, 13, 12, 11, 5, and twins 2 1/2. This family needs a refrigerator and clothing. And to make Christmas for them, they need a dinner and toys. Catholic Family Center.

55 Mrs. N. is a young working mother and is attending school through a program. She has four children all in need of clothing and she would appreciate toys for children at Christmas time. She has no refrigerator and the stove she is using is completely broken down. St. Martin de Porres Center.

56 Mrs. D., the mother of four children, is working in the WIN Program. She is looking for a full-time job that would enable her to support her small children. She is in need of clothing and toys for these little ones for Christmas. St. Martin de Porres Center.

57 Mrs. A. maintains a home for her five children and also for three grandchildren. She is living on Social Security and needs clothing for a boy of 13. She would appreciate any help. St. Martin de Porres Center.

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Pontiff Greets Singers

Pope Paul chats with members of the Black Nativity Gospel Singers from Philadelphia during a Vatican audience. The group sang several spirituals for him. [RNS]

Father Fleming Dies, Pastor of St. Salome

Father Walter E. Fleming, pastor of St. Salome's Church, died Dec. 5, 1973, at the age of 57. He had been in ill health for some time.

Members of the St. Bernard's class of 1942 concelebrated the Mass of the Resurrection Monday with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Eugene Weis, associate pastor, and former assistants.

Austria Eases Abortion Law

Vienna [RNS] — Austria's lower house of Parliament, in a 93-88 vote, has approved new legislation liberalizing the country's strict abortion laws. The bill, part of a new Criminal Code, would permit the termination of pregnancy within the first three months.

Under the present code, dating from 1787, there is a ban on all abortions, except in cases where childbirth would clearly endanger the mother's life.

Father Robert McNamara gave the homily. Father Robert Meng was homilist at the Mass of the High Priest Sunday evening.

Father Fleming was appointed to the Sea Breeze parish in June, 1966. One of the last special events in the 57-year-old church was his 25th anniversary of ordination celebration on June 4, 1967. On June 17, the small, frame building was ruined by lightning and fire. The pastor instituted a building fund for a church dedicated in October, 1969.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Fleming, he was born in Rochester Sept. 18, 1916. He attended Sacred Heart School, Aquinas Institute, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Before his appointment as pastor he served as an assistant at St. John's, Clyde, and St. Patrick's, Savannah, St. Peter and Paul, Elmira, St. Patrick's, Owego, and the Rochester churches of St. Augustine, Immaculate Conception, St. John's and Our Lady of Good Counsel.



FATHER FLEMING

Father Fleming leaves an aunt, Miss Rose Schlitzer, and several cousins.