

Courier Fund Gathers Record \$33,904

By CHARLES RANDISI

The final tabulation of the 1973 Courier-Journal Christmas Fund adds up to \$33,904.04, an all-time record in the five-year history of the fund.

The figure far exceeds the 1972 record-breaking total of more than \$25,000, and nearly doubles the \$17,000 raised in 1971.

Anthony J. Costello, general manager of the Courier-Journal, expressed his joy over the success of the fund, which aids the neediest families in the Rochester diocese through the office of Catholic Charities.

"Of course it goes without



saying that I'm delighted that the total was higher than ever," he said. "I'd especially like to thank

Father Joseph D'Aurizio, Catholic Charities director, and the entire staff at Catholic Charities for the

help they have given the Courier-Journal in making the fund drive the success that it is."

All in all, some 2,100 families were aided by the Christmas fund, which attracted 1,671 money contributions and 100 donations of clothes or toys.

"The larger donations are definitely needed," said Costello, "but what has always warmed my heart about the fund drive are the many one and two dollar donations. This is really people helping people."

He mentioned a letter the Christmas fund received that typified the sacrifice made by

those who gave. "We received one letter from a family of four," he reported, "who said they were not going to exchange gifts for Christmas. All the money they usually spend was sent to aid needy families."

This year the Courier-Journal took a new step in publicizing the Christmas fund — the backs of Rochester buses were used in a promotional effort.

Costello added, "I would also like to especially thank Carmen Viglucci, the editor, and the staff of the Courier-Journal for their dedication in presenting the plight of the 100 neediest cases in the paper."

Probe Continues In Church Fire

Elmira — Police and fire officials are still searching for clues in the arson fire of St. John the Baptist Church. The fire destroyed a major portion of the church on Dec. 27.

While sifting through the tons of debris caused by the fire, officials found the tabernacle, which had earlier been thought stolen.

Police officials after conferring with fire authorities reported that the main fire in the church was started in the choir loft. Earlier officials had believed that several fires had also been started in the pews. Fire and police did say a small blaze was started on the altar, but was confined to that area.

The parishioners of the downtown church have been attending church at St. Cecilia's on the city's northeast side.

The general alarm fire, which broke out in the early morning hours, could be seen over a large part of the Elmira community. Smoke from the blaze could be seen and smelled for blocks.

During the early part of last week a cap was placed over the top of the church to prevent further deterioration of the remaining church fixtures.

The cap covers a huge hole in the roof of the building caused when the top of the church collapsed.

Tabernacle Found in Fire Debris

Elmira — There was an unusual turn of events last week when workmen clearing the fire-rubbed rubble in St. John the Baptist Church came upon the bronze tabernacle feared stolen by the individual who set the church ablaze.

A problem arose immediately however, as Father William Tobin, pastor of the parish, noted that water had penetrated to the interior of the repository and soaked the Sacred Species, requiring disposition.

The Species was buried in the earth, as provided by Canon Law.

A spokesman for the diocese said later that, essentially, this response to the problem followed the principle of the sacarium, a basin used for cleansing of the priest's hands and objects which come in contact with the Most Precious Body and Blood of the Lord.

The sacarium is drained directly into the earth.



New Year's Greeting

Pope Paul VI shakes hands with some Roman refuse collectors after he stopped to pray at a creche they had erected near St. Peter's Basilica. The pontiff was returning to the Vatican from celebrating Mass in the parish church of St. Anthony in a lower class neighborhood on Rome's southeast outskirts. He was marking the seventh World Day of Peace, an observance introduced by him on Jan. 1, 1968.

Human Dignity Stressed In Catholic Family Report

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — In a wide-ranging statement on the family and population, U.S. Roman Catholic Family Life Directors stressed the "values and dignity" of children and warned against "present propaganda" for Zero Population Growth, which, they charged, "seeks to undermine parental generosity and raise selfishness to the level of virtue."

Warning that "America is not experiencing a rapid or disorderly demographic increase," the statement called on Christian families to "develop a keener awareness of population questions and of their own role in meeting population problems." The statement added:

"They (parents) should be confident that mankind can find solutions to the most challenging problems without violating God's law or destroying human dignity. The basic responsibility of Christian couples at this moment may well be to witness to the advantages and rewards of marital unity, parenthood and family life, and thus restore a sense of well-founded hope to society."

The statement, tied to the 1974 United Nations Population Year and directed particularly to Catholics on Holy Family Sunday (Dec. 30), considered population in respect to several aspects of family life, including women today, human sexuality and procreation.

Initially, the statement declared that the family is the "first and most important unit of human society," and "not the result of chance, a haphazard structure that will some day give way to other forms of community living."

In its section on women, the statement supported basic human freedoms of women, including the pursuit of professional roles and employment opportunities. It also said the maternal role is not limited to childbearing "but extends to the important educational and socializing functions that contemporary women are well-equipped to fulfill."

"American women are among the best-educated women in the

history of the world, but they receive little attention or public support for their crucial work of transmitting knowledge, culture, and concern for human values to coming generations," the statement declared.

Concerning the population growth aspect, the statement expressed special concern for the responsibilities of families within the Roman Catholic tradition.

It stated that this tradition "affirms the right of married couples to determine the size of their families and the frequency of births," and it said they must be protected from "overbearing or coercive influence of government, of any particular public ideology, and of oppressive laws or social structures."

Catholic tradition also "requires an overall plan of human and social development that will liberate families from those circumstances — poverty, disease, ignorance — which limit their freedom," the statement said.

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A Fresh Opportunity

A new year, the opportunity to start afresh. Bishop Joseph E. Hogan in his weekly column, Pastoral Perspective, on Page 3 uses the symbol of a blank calendar to show the potential of a new year. Each of us has the opportunity to fill in each new day with happy and worthwhile events.