

A Family's Plight: No Christmas

The stark simplicity with which the various Catholic Charities agencies present the hardship cases in the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund drive matches the dire straits in which many of our diocesan brothers and sisters will find themselves this Christmas.

Consider:

"There are five members in the family. Due to chronic illness neither the father nor the mother is able to work to support the family. This family is in desperate need of any help it may get. Without the generosity of others, this family will not have any Christmas."

Think of it. A family in our diocese may "not have any Christmas."

Or take the B. family.

"They live in a rural area. Mr. B. has been a farmer all his life; he has a bleeding ulcer; his wife is badly in need of dental work and medical care. They are buying their home on a land contract but may lose it despite the fact that he remodeled it on his own. They have four children."

To elaborate on such cases would be futile. Their desperation contrasted with the holiday air of festivity speaks for itself.

To provide special attention to these cases, the Courier-Journal established an annual Christmas

Fund drive six years ago. The fund has grown every year and has helped thousands have a brighter celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ.

All of the cases are true but they represent only a small part of the caseload being attended to by Catholic Charities, through its member agencies. The cases come from urban and rural areas from throughout the diocese. Any parish in the diocese is to contact Catholic Charities with special requests as the campaign is diocesan-wide.

This year, the Catholic Charities office will not be able to accommodate clothing, toys and food. Three parishes will help but they do not have facilities to accept clothing. Gifts of food and toys, however, will be accepted at Mount Carmel, 60 Woodward St.; St. Michael's 869 N. Clinton Ave. and Immaculate Conception, 445 S. Plymouth Ave., all in Rochester.

Readers are invited to contribute but because some cases may receive a great deal of attention and others none, the center must use its discretion and expertise in aiding as many as possible at Christmas time.

All contributions should be sent to:

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

100 Neediest Cases

21. Mr. and Mrs. P., a couple in their early 30s with one child, had recently returned here after failing at a start in a new life in a different community. The family discouraged with the present situation and finding it very difficult to manage financially, would welcome a ray of sunshine and hope.

22. Mrs. B. came to Catholic Family Center early one morning after being beaten in her home by a group of young boys. An attacker was arrested and threatened to return with a gun after his release. Mrs. B. could not for her own mental and physical safety go back to the home. Although she is a welfare recipient, she was not eligible for emergency housing because the size of her family unit did not meet the eligibility requirements. She was provided two nights of housing by Catholic Family Center. The Welfare Department, in the meantime, found her an apartment and paid the moving costs. The increased financial strain will make it difficult to provide an enjoyable Christmas for the family unless there is some other help.

23. Mr. and Mrs. R., a young couple and their three children were cut off from public assistance and were waiting for a Fair Hearing to be scheduled. In the meantime, the family did not have any income. Mr. R. tried to support himself by doing odd jobs but could not make ends meet. He was helped on two occasions with food for his family.

24. Miss Y. is alone in Rochester with two young children. She has no relatives in the city and is doing her best to keep her family together. She receives welfare and is a full-time student at a local college. She wants to be a social worker. Besides moral support, she could also use tangible assistance.

25. Mrs. K. is an elderly diabetic who lives alone. A competent manager of her Social Security check, she is able to provide for her own daily needs. However, gifts and money at Christmas will make her life more meaningful.

26. Mrs. J. has been burdened by a series of physical and emotional problems that have

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Happy Holiday

End of the Hunt, by Dale Nichols, Courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art. (RNS)

U.S. Bishops Urge Fast, Oppose Death Penalty

Washington — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops took action on two major fronts at its annual meeting here last week.

The U.S. Bishops called for special programs of worship, fasting and abstinence to help alleviate the threat of starvation in more than 30 countries.

They also spoke out for the first time against capital punishment.

The U.S. Bishops asked all Roman Catholics to fast at least two days a week in an effort toward "ministering to the needs of others."

The "Pastoral Plan of Action in

Fr. Langworthy Dies

Father Charles G. Langworthy, who retired last month from the pastorate of St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario, died Nov. 23, 1974, in Rochester General Hospital. He was 54 years old.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was the principal celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial this morning at St. Mary's. An all-night vigil was held there last night, and Bishop Dennis W. Hickey offered the Mass of Christ the High Priest.

Father Langworthy's health had been failing for some time. When he left St. Mary's in October he intended to help out at St. Joseph's in Penfield. "He never made it," Bishop Hickey said. "He was in and out of hospitals, and staying with his mother between times. Because of the expense this involved, his former parishioners took up a 'huge' collection, completing it just last week, the bishop reported. Father Langworthy was named pastor of the Wayne County parish in January, 1970.

He was a native Rochesterian, from Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, and a graduate of the diocesan seminaries. Ordained

Inside Stories On World Hunger

Sarah Child has some advice for meatless meals. Page 10.

Bread for Life of the Thanksgiving Mass at St. Michael's. Page 23.

An in-depth look at world food crisis. Page 14.

Lest We Forget, an editorial. Page 4.

"the World Food Crisis" stated that world hunger and malnutrition must be attacked on two fronts —

immediate assistance to stem the threat of starvation in many areas of the world, and long range programs to increase food production.

The plan was presented by Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York and states that liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent would be appropriate for promoting fast and abstinence.

Though the Church has traditionally supported the right of the state to impose the death penalty, many churchmen in recent years have spoken against the practice.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 1972 ruled that the death penalty constituted cruel and unusual punishment. The NCCB now has gone on record in opposition.

While rejecting a lengthy statement which expressed opposition to capital punishment, the bishops did approve, by a 2-1 margin, a simple statement which

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Politics and Church: A New Column

Many feel that there is no place for the Church in politics but the fact is that the Church already is in politics. To feel that there is no room for moral persuasion in our political and social realms would be tantamount to condoning some of the political injustice and perfidies that have marked our recent history.

Thus with this edition the Courier-Journal is adding a new column, Church and Politics, written by Sister Frances Sweeney of the Office of Human Development. Sister Frances has been with OHD since it was instituted seven years ago as the Inner City Ministry. Before that she was an elementary school teacher.

Sister Frances' first column appears on Page 5.