

Neediest Cases

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recently. So far, no money has been received. In the meantime, a relative has been supplying food, but no one can keep this up. Other benefactors have given them small amounts of money. Can you picture a woman in such a physical condition with such financial problems?

44. Mrs. V. is the mother of two girls, ages 3 years and 15 months. All of her belongings were lost in a recent fire which destroyed her apartment. She could use contributions of all kinds to help provide her family with an enjoyable Christmas.

45. Mrs. H. is a grandmother of five children ranging from 13 years to 6 years. Mrs. H.'s daughter, the mother of these children, died suddenly four years ago and Mrs. H., who receives a limited income, has a difficult time giving her grandchildren the things they need. She needs help in providing a nice Christmas for them.

46. Mrs. Y. is a mother of seven children ranging in age from 18 years to 12 years. Mrs. Y.'s husband left the home eight years ago and she is receiving assistance from the Monroe County Department of Social Services. She has a most difficult time in meeting the physical and economic needs of her family. Any contributions would help this family to have the kind of Christmas they would remember in a pleasant way.

47. Miss E. is a young lady with one child. Mother was receiving grant and Miss E. was included. Mother never gave Miss E. her part of the grant. Miss E. tried to get public assistance for herself and child. Miss E. still has no help except what she gets from agencies.

48. Mr. and Mrs. B. family were burned out. They lost their home and all their possessions. The B. family is on public assistance and although aid was given they are still finding it difficult to get on their feet.

49. Mrs. D. is the mother of six children. She is on public assistance, but is having difficulty staying on it. She is a very sick person suffering from a severe nervous condition among other problems.

50. Mrs. D. is the mother of six children moved to Rochester about four months ago. Mr. D. had been unable to find a job where he was living so he decided to try his luck in Rochester. Client found a job as soon as he arrived but he needed help until he received his first pay. Client applied for emergency assistance for his family but got none. Mr. D. is working but this family still needs assistance.

51. Mrs. L. is 19 and has a baby girl. She desperately needed financial assistance but was given no help at the time she needed it. It took eight weeks before the client received public assistance. A lot of concerned citizens had to help this client and her baby survive through this crisis situation.

52. Mrs. S. had numerous problems with her landlord. She was confronted with rats, roaches, broken windows, loose bricks in walkway, air cracks around the doors which caused high heat bills during winter months, and other minor violations that the landlord failed to repair. At one point building authorities forced the landlord to repair faulty wiring in the house, other than this he never repaired anything. One month Mrs. S. held back one month's rent hoping this would be a step forward in getting her landlord to fix some of the violations but he still refused to do so. During this time the temperature was down in the teens and twenties and it would be very cold in some parts of Mrs. S. apartment which housed her

and eight children. Mr. S. is in the Veteran's hospital in a nearby city.

53. Mrs. R. is receiving public assistance for her six children. She is now receiving S.S.I. checks for herself. Mrs. R. has a serious disease in the blood cell (Hodgkins disease). Doctor say this is incurable; when the disease progresses she will have to be hospitalized.

54. Client's relatives sent this family the money to move to Rochester. Client was ill and his relatives convinced him that they would get better medical attention here. There are a total of 12 in this family, 10 children. Mr. L. was unable to find a job due to his illness. He was told by his relatives he could not stay with them any longer. Mr. L. applied for public assistance as their situation became one of crisis.

55. The R family consists of Mr. R. and four children, ages 12 through 3. Mrs. R. left the family more than two years ago and Mr. R. has full responsibility for raising the children, and this situation is complicated by the fact that Mr. R. is seriously disabled as a result of an industrial accident and is confined part of the time in a wheel chair. His income consists of a small weekly payment from a tenant who rents an apartment in the second floor of his home and compensation payments which are scarcely adequate to meet the family's needs. Making a reasonably generous Christmas for the children in the family will be difficult for Mr. R. in view of the financial circumstance.

56. Mrs. C. is a divorced woman who has three children to rear — a girl who will graduate from high school in June and two younger boys. She is struggling to finish paying for the home she and her husband were buying and to provide other necessities for the family on the minimal support from her husband as ordered by the court and supplementary public assistance. Mrs. C. has several chronic physical ailments (among them asthma and an ulcer). She does not have a high school diploma and no job training. She is a generous person who has only her time and herself to give. She is making strides in gaining confidence in herself and working toward more independence. She manages the money she has well but there is nothing for extras. Her former husband does nothing but pay the amount of money ordered by the court. She needs help to provide a few extras.

57. Mr. and Mrs. A. are on the verge of financial bankruptcy. There is some light ahead and with better management they could pull through this period without resorting to bankruptcy. Mrs. A. however, is very near emotional bankruptcy as she has tried to give of herself beyond what she has to give. She needs help to restore herself and to learn new patterns of behaving so she can be a more effective person. The A's have very little money and are having to buy furniture for their new home which they had to make after Mrs. A's mother moved out taking the furniture with her. These necessary expenses leave no money for Christmas for Mr. and Mrs. A. and their two children, 9 and 8. We would like them to have a Merry Christmas.

58. Mrs. Z. is a lovely lady who has been able to maintain herself via Social Security and disability checks. Recently she lost her sister who had been a comfort to her. She has been bringing up a son who has all the normal problems of an adolescent. Mrs. Z. also has another son who has been stricken by a disease that demands a great deal of money and time. Her faith and ability to cope are tremendous, but her financial resources are extremely limited.

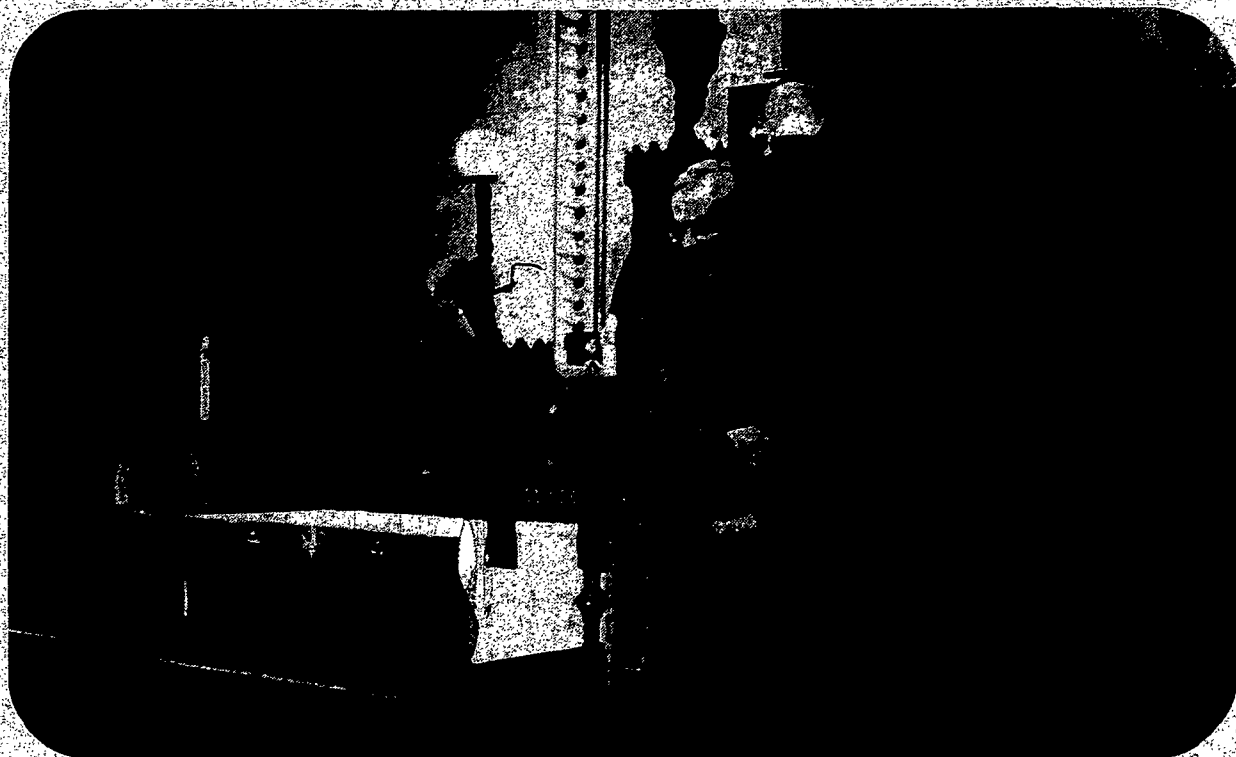


Photo by Susan McKinney

Court Blessing

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan takes part in an interfaith service of thanksgiving and blessing for courts and their personnel at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Wednesday, Nov. 27. Judges, lawyers and other personnel attended the morning rites whose celebrants were: Rev. Marvin Chandler, Genesee Ecumenical Ministeries; Rabbi Harvey S. Goldman, Temple Sinai; Bishop Hogan and Episcopal Bishop Robert R. Spears. Bishop Spears led the service and Rabbi Goldman spoke on the theme *Lex est Lux — the Law is a Light*.

Pilgrims Enter Stretch

By Father Robert F. McNamara

The Advance Holy Year of Jubilee is fast drawing to a close. When the official Holy Year opens in Rome on Dec. 24, with the unsealing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's, the diocesan Holy Year automatically ceases. But even since the grand Jubilee Mass at Sacred Cathedral on Oct. 27, there have been a good many pilgrimages within the diocese. And these will continue to take place right up through the first three weeks of December.

On the same Oct. 27, for example, 20 pilgrims from St. Pius X Church on Chili Avenue, pumped their way on bicycles to the pilgrimage church of St. Columba in Caledonia. On Nov. 24, a slightly larger group of students and priests of St. Bernard's Seminary and members of local prayer groups, held a penance service at St. Bernard's, a procession to the Cathedral, and on arrival, a special Mass in honor of Christ the King.

Holy Trinity Church, Webster, itself a pilgrimage church, made its parish pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Cathedral on Nov. 10. About 300 took part in the pilgrimage, transported mostly in buses. In each bus prayers were recited en route and guitarists led in hymns and songs. The Northeast Region had its second and last pilgrimage to Holy

Trinity on Nov. 21. About 500 attended the concelebrated Mass, and a collection of canned food was taken up for the needy.

Sacred Heart Church in Auburn made a pilgrimage to the area pilgrimage center, St. Alphonsus, Auburn, on Nov. 17. About 150 participated. Pilgrims from Cato-Red Creek and Scipio Center have also wended their parish way to St. Alphonsus during the past few weeks.

On Nov. 24, St. Peter and Paul Pilgrimage Church in Elmira held its second regional pilgrimage rite. It took the form of an evening Eucharistic devotion of reparation in honor of Christ the King. The preacher was Father Joseph M. Egan, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira. The service was followed by a parish reception in honor of Father Mark Miller, who is being transferred from his post of associate pastor at St. Peter and Paul, and Father James Callan, who is succeeding him. On Nov. 10, the Elmira Knights of Columbus, about 50 strong, had a group pilgrimage to St. Peter and Paul's.

Perhaps the most splendid of the recent pilgrimages was that of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Rochester. After long and careful preparation, the parish pilgrims set out on Nov. 10 for the pilgrimage church of their choice, St. Michael's. Two buses

picked up the senior citizens, and many went in cars. But some 200 walked the whole route, bearing banners and flags, and aided by a police escort. Knights of St. John and their Ladies Auxiliaries, Boy and Girl Scouts were among the marchers. As they neared St. Michael's, they were met by an official delegation from that church, and all entered the church building to the tune of the great bells and a trumpet fanfare. About 400, young and old, took part; and young and old agreed that this had been a real "happening".

Several other parish pilgrimages are still in the planning stage. We sincerely hope that they also will find the pilgrimage experience a genuine "happening", and one that will increase the participants' willingness to engage in works of reconciliation. For even the most devotional pilgrimage will be trivial unless it prompts the pilgrims to reach out to those in need.

BOUTIQUE

The work of 50 professional craftsmen will be on sale at the St. Margaret Mary Unique Boutique II, Dec. 7 and 8 in the school auditorium, 400 Rogers Pkwy. There will be a special shop for children and a gift wrap booth. Susan Hamilton is general chairman.

Vatican on Abortion

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"With regard to the future unhappiness of the child, no one — not even the father or mother — can act as its substitute, even to choose in the child's name life or death.

"The child itself, when grown up, will never have the right to choose suicide. No more may the child's parents choose death for the child when it is not old enough to consider any such decision."

Pointing to women's responsibilities on the question, the Vatican document said: "The movement for the emancipation of women, in so far as it seeks essentially to free them from all unjust discrimination, is on perfectly sound ground.

"But one cannot change nature, nor can one exempt women, any more than men, from what nature demands of them."

It added that all freedoms,

including sexual freedom, have a natural limitation in the rights of other people, "and must always be careful not to violate justice."

"None tries to say that men and women are free to seek sexual pleasure to the point of satiety, without taking into account any law or the essential orientation of sexual law to its fruits of fertility, then this idea has nothing Christian in it," the document stated.

It recalled that the Church had long insisted on "responsible parenthood," and "the exercise of true, human and Christian prudence."

"Such prudence," it concluded, "included generosity of spirit and awareness of the grandeur of the task of cooperating with the Creator in the transmission of life which gives new members to society and new children to the Church."



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