



Graphics by Susan McKinney

Finding Ways to Help

[Cases in Centerfold]

This has turned into a "bad year" for many people accustomed to a degree of prosperity; the danger signals are up for many more.

Yet, affluence can be a state of mind, occasional notes to Catholic Charities indicate. Every once in a while during the six seasons of the Courier-Journal Christmas fund, a contributor has explained how the family was able to make the gift.

"Each of the children was willing to settle for one gift," one man wrote.

Many social groups have eliminated their traditional gift exchange in order to give to people less fortunate than themselves. Some downtown office workers have cut out their holiday parties to the same purpose. Many people are giving more thoughtful consideration to Christmas card lists, to pare expenses on behalf of the poor.



Obviously, the poor cannot juggle funds this way.

In detailing the neediest cases in these pages over the past few weeks, the Courier-Journal has simply turned the spotlight on the misery that Charities workers encounter day in, day out, year after year.

The case histories presented are accurate in detail, but they

reflect only a sample of the real poverty found in city and country throughout the diocese. Contributors are asked to understand that particular cases which appeal to them may attract a lot of money, while some others do not. Catholic Charities workers accordingly will use their discretion in helping as many people as possible.

The office is not able this year to take in things — toys, clothes, food. Three Rochester parishes that will accept food and toys, but not clothing, for this Christmas drive, are St. Michael's, at 869 N. Clinton; Mt. Carmel, 60 Woodward St., and Immaculate Conception, 445 S. Plymouth.

Money contributions should be sent to:

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

First American Saint Mother Seton Canonization Sept. 14, 1975

Pope Paul IV announced last week that Blessed Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the foundress the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul, will be canonized Sunday, Sept. 14, 1975.

Mother Seton, who was beatified March 17, 1963, will be the first native born citizen of the United States to be declared a saint. It was members of her order, who in 1857, established St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester to provide nursing care for wounded and disabled Union soldiers during the Civil War.

A convert to Catholicism, Mother Seton was noted for her

devotion to religion. She and members of her order dedicated their lives to unselfish service to the poor. The Daughters of Charity were responsible for the organization of many schools for poor children, were the first nuns to be assigned to missions in western New York and were pioneers in organizing hospitals in this area.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born an Episcopalian in New York City, Aug. 28, 1774. At age 20, she married William Magee Seton. Along with her own five children, she cared for her husband's brothers and sisters after death of her father-in-law.

Prior to her husband's death in 1803, the Setons journeyed to Italy. It was in this country that Elizabeth became acquainted with the Catholic Faith. Upon her return to New York in 1805, she was baptized in St. Peter's Church.

As a result of her conversion, she became isolated from her family and friends and was denied financial assistance for her children. Father Dubourg, SS, from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, suggested that she open a girls' school in Maryland. She took his advice, and in 1808, opened a school near the seminary.

She soon moved to Emmitsburg, Md. and established a school for poor children. It was there in 1809, that she founded the Daughters of Charity.

The new order attracted many members and Mother Seton was elected mother superior three times, each time against her will. On Jan. 4, 1821, Mother Seton died of a pulmonary infection, after 13 years of service to the poor and to Catholicism.



Two hundred years after her birth, Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, foundress of the Daughters of Charity, will be the first native born American to be proclaimed a saint.

'A Rod of Steel'

New York [RNS] — The priest whose authoritative biography of Blessed Elizabeth Ann Seton will be updated prior to her canonization rites in Rome said here that the first U.S.-born saint should become a "great rallying point" for the American Catholic Church.

Father Joseph I. Dirvin, CM, vice president for university relations at St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y., and author of "Mrs. Seton," declared that Mother Seton, because of her varied background and interests, and ties to the early history of the U.S., has a wide appeal not only to American Catholics but to Americans in general.

Confessing that he was "nonplussed" when first com-

missioned by the vice postulator of her cause to write her biography, Father Dirvin said everything he had read about her was "too sugary" and "overly affectionate." But he said that "when I got to know her (through her letters and diary) I found she was a rod of steel, a dynamo

Father Dirvin, a scholar in American literature with an avocation for history, has completed two other biographies, on St. Catherine Laboure (1958) and St. Louise de Marillac (1970), both Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Mother Seton founded the U.S. branch of that same religious order.

The Vincentian priest, who no

Continued on Page 2

Table of Contents

On Page 2

Courier Awarded National Prize

Washington, D.C. — The Courier-Journal for the second consecutive year has been designated a "National Blue Ribbon Newspaper" for 1975 by the National Editorial Foundation (NEF). Daily and weekly newspapers across the country are considered for the award.

In announcing the designation, Paul D. Coffman, foundation president, noted that 25 criteria were used to measure the newspaper's service to its community against a national standard.

In a letter to the Courier-Journal accompanying the

award, Coffman said that "this award indicates that you publish an alert progressive community-minded newspaper."

"The NEF noted that although some newspapers repeated as national winners, some former standard bearers did not measure up this year. Coffman attributed this to the overall improved quality of participating newspapers and said the judges may be getting more critical.

"The one outstanding feature of most of the Blue Ribbon newspapers is the development of the editorial



page," he said. "Many not only feature an attractive editorial page offering good comment on local issues but often offer editorial cartoons to highlight the page. The public opinion forum offered through the 'Letters to the Editor' also shows that many newspapers are getting input from their readers which demonstrates their concern for the local communities they serve."

The NEF, established in 1957, is dedicated to the improvement of journalism and journalism education. It has conducted the annual Blue Ribbon evaluation since 1969.