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Courier Christmas Fund Launches 7th Campaign

The seventh annual Courier-Journal Christmas Fund, conducted in conjunction with Catholic Charities, gets under way this week.

"We are beginning before Thanksgiving to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate," noted Anthony J. Costello, general manager of the Courier-Journal.

Though Christmas may still seem distant to some, others already have begun sending their contributions to Catholic Charities, mindful that earlier action gives time for more effective help this very Christmas. Aid is distributed through the Catholic Family Center to lighten the burden suffered by many through poverty, illness, joblessness, age, loneliness, hunger.

The Courier-Journal will list the 100 neediest cases in the diocese between now and Christmas, the

first 25 appearing in this edition. All of the cases are true but they represent only a small part of the caseload being attended to by Catholic Charities, through its family center.

Yearly, since its inception in 1969, the Courier-Journal fund has grown, not only in donations but in the number of donors. Last year, more than \$36,000 was contributed, exceeding 1973's previous high of \$33,904. In 1974 there were 100 more contributors than the 1,671 in 1973.

Because Catholic Charities and the Courier-Journal are already geared up to handle the campaign, there is no startup, operating or administrative cost. Every dollar donated goes directly to alleviate need.

The cases come from urban and rural areas. Parishes from throughout the diocese are invited to contact Catholic Charities with any special

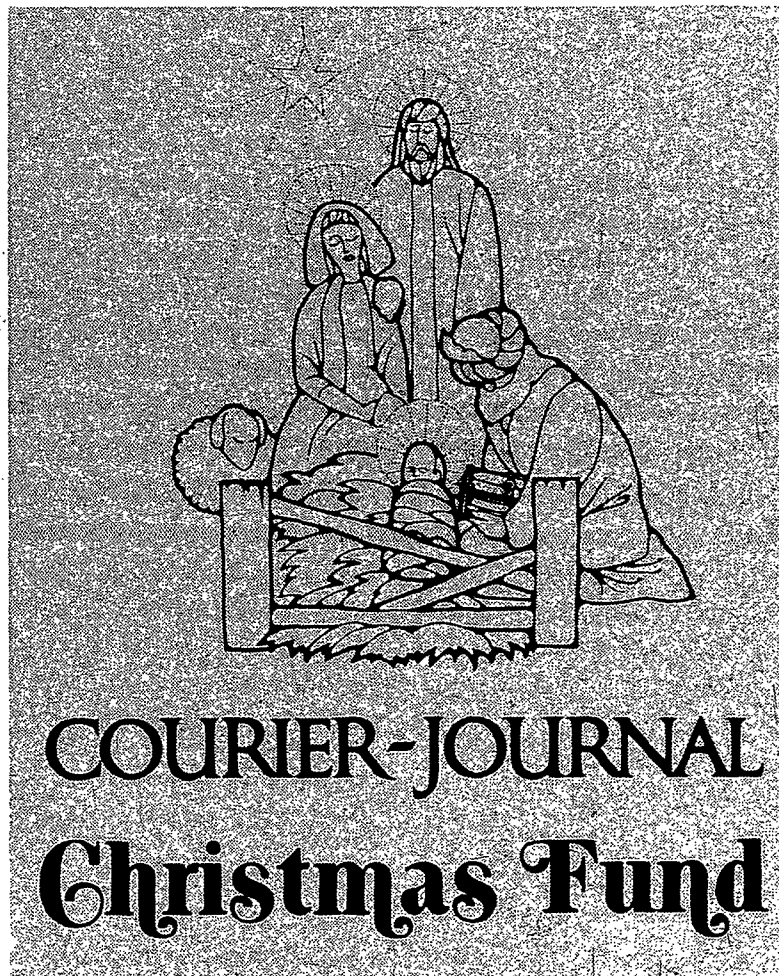
requests.

The Catholic Charities office is not able to accommodate gifts of clothing, toys and food. Three parishes will help by receiving food and toys but they have no facilities for clothing. Toys and food may be taken to Mt. Carmel, 60 Woodward St.; St. Michael's, 869 N. Clinton Ave.; or Immaculate Conception, Plymouth Circle, all in Rochester.

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 discretion and expertise in aiding as many as possible.

All contributions should be sent to:

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



COURIER-JOURNAL Christmas Fund

Bishop Outlines Preparation for Eucharistic Meet

My dear People:

A statement issued Nov. 20, 1975 in Washington, D.C. by the Bishops of the United States makes formal announcement of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress. The Congress will be celebrated in Philadelphia Aug. 1 through Aug. 8, 1976 and participation by the whole American Church is anticipated.

Various preparatory steps are envisioned to aid us all to a worthy and credible celebration of this Eucharistic event. But especially important is the spiritual preparation.

With this keenly in mind I encourage the celebration of Eucharistic days or evenings, at least monthly, in parishes and religious houses. It was brought to the attention of the Bishops that there are exactly nine First Fridays commencing Dec. 5, 1975

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Father Bernard Haring, a theologian of world renown, was in the diocese last week to speak at St. Bernard's Seminary. Courier-Journal staff writer Martin Toombs interviewed Father Haring on a number of topics and his exclusive interview is on Page 7.



Neediest Cases

1. Mrs. J. and her 15-year-old retarded son live alone. Her husband was killed several years ago in an auto accident. They would like to have a bright, shiny Christmas.
2. Mrs. H. and her six children will not have a Christmas this year because she recently had surgery for breast cancer. This family is on public assistance. They are in need of a Christmas dinner.
3. A crippled, lonely, poor old man would like to have a bright Christmas. Think of how you can give him a bright joyful Christmas. He needs so much.
4. Mrs. A. is a lonely, young woman with three young children. Her husband deserted her after an auto accident permanently disabled her. Mrs. A.'s affection for her children is profound and she wishes there was a way she could make Christmas a little more meaningful to them.
5. Mrs. W.'s family died when she was very young. This young mother was herself raised in a foster home. She dearly loves her two children, and is a warm, concerned mother. Her husband is in the V.A. hospital and is expected to remain there the rest of his life. Mrs. W. is new to the city and has been unable to find a job. Your Christmas generosity would definitely give her joy and hope.
6. Mrs. E. is a widow with five children: two sons, 12 and 10 years of age and three daughters, ages 7, 6 and 5. She finds it difficult to cope with her many problems since her husband's death four years ago. And, as if she did not have enough difficulty in managing on an inadequate income, all of their belongings were destroyed in a fire four weeks ago. This family is in great need as Christmas time approaches.
7. Mrs. B. is struggling to maintain herself and her two daughters, ages 7 and 5, on a low income. Her husband deserted

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U.S. Bishops Act On Abortion, Jewish Relations

Text of statement in centerfold.

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The nation's Roman Catholic bishops acted on two key fronts at their annual meeting last week. They unanimously approved a long-range multidimensional plan of action aimed at overturning "permissive abortion laws" and they overwhelmingly approved a statement that stressed the "Jewish origins of the Catholic Church."

ABORTION

As a corollary to overturning permissive abortion laws, the bishops will attempt to develop "legal protection" for the unborn.

A feature of the plan, the "Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities," is a call for concerted action for the "Congressional district level" by Catholics and others to work for the passage of a human life amendment to the Constitution.

However, the plan stressed that such activity would not be identified with Church pastoral efforts and would not be "operated, controlled or financed" by the Church.

The plan was introduced to the bishops by Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

At a press conference, the cardinal said that the "vast majority of Americans are opposed to permissive abortion and he added that the "only course" now open is the passage of a Constitutional amendment to reverse the "disastrous" in 1973 U.S. Supreme Court rulings on abortion.

He said the bishops' plan is not a Church lobby but proposes a citizens' lobby of persons from all faiths who oppose abortion. Cardinal Cooke added that the Church will not endorse so-called "pro-life" candidates but will only

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JUDAISM

The statement on Judaism called on theologians to explore the continuing relationship of the Jewish people with Christians for the "eventual fulfillment of God's plan for Church and synagogue."

The statement generated some controversy among bishops over "areas of disagreement" between Catholics and Jews — especially on public aid to Catholic schools and on the current Lebanese situation.

Marking the 10th anniversary of Vatican II statement on the Jews, contained in the document "Nostra Aetate," the statement was described as a "celebration" of that anniversary.

The document noted that recent Vatican guidelines on Jewish-Catholic relations "urge us to see post-Biblical Judaism (as well as the Judaism of the patriarchs and the prophets) as rich in religious values and worthy of our sincere respect and esteem."

The statement did not address the Middle East conflict or the controversial United Nations resolution on Zionism. It was described as primarily a religious document.

While urging Catholics to understand the "link between land and people" so precious to the Jews, the statement emphasized that it was not giving assent to any particular religious

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