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COURIER-JOURNAL Christmas Fund

Some Can't Celebrate Christ's Birthday

See Neediest Cases on Pages 24 and 25.

The birthday of Christ means many things to people. For most, Christmas signifies happy times. Family visits, exchanging gifts, long sumptuous meals shared with people you love are all a part of the holiday.

There are people, however, who won't know such a Christmas. They are concerned with paying the rent or getting enough food for their children to stay healthy. Presents or a large meal are simply things that other people enjoy.

Giving to this year's Courier-Journal Christmas Fund may make it possible for some of these people to have a Merry Christmas. For the past several weeks the Courier-Journal working with Catholic Charities has published a sampling of the poverty some of our brothers and sisters wake up to each morning.

Though all cases are true and are within the diocese they represent only a small part of the caseload being attended to by the Catholic Family Center. The persons described live in urban and rural settings. Any parish in the diocese with special requests is invited to contact Catholic Charities.

Readers may contribute to individual cases but because some may receive a great deal of attention and others none, Catholic Family Center must use its expertise in distributing the aid so that as many as possible are helped.

The Catholic Charities Office is not able to accommodate gifts of

Fund Hits \$20,000

The Courier-Journal Christmas Fund has been given a flying start by contributors from throughout the diocese. Donations reached the \$20,000 mark as of Dec. 10. Though some contributions are of large amounts, the bulk of the donations are smaller which indicates wide participation in the fund.

A CALL TO ACTION Diocese Launches Consultation

The Pastoral Office has announced that a diocesanwide consultation, dealing with the Call To Action Conference in Detroit, has begun. According to Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry and coordinator of the program, the purpose of the consultation, titled "A Call To Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y.," is to allow Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, a good working knowledge of how the diocese feels about the proposed recommendations made in Detroit.

"This Call To Action consultation provides a much greater opportunity for the people of the diocese to participate in the life of the Church. Where ordinarily individual Catholics concentrate their efforts on their parishes or regions, they now can participate in the issues faced by our bishops," Father Hoffman said.

"A Call to Action" will be completely open to the diocese and will concern all Detroit recommendations. Special attention will be given to 20 topics which have been selected by Bishop Hogan.

Besides Father Hoffman the other members of the committee which will "administrate, design and implement" the program are Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, Diocesan Pastoral Council; Linda Decillis, Pastoral Ministry; Timothy McGowan, Office of Human Development; Anthony J. Costello, general manager of the Courier-Journal; Father John Mulligan, copastor of St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street, Rochester); and Father Joseph Jankowiak, professor at St. Bernard's Seminary.

There also will be a number of consultants, including all delegates, alternates and observers to the Detroit conference, available to the committee.

The four-month process, beginning with the Dec. 29 issue of

the Courier-Journal, is divided into three "general tracks" and headed by members of the committee. Delegates for each track have not as yet been selected. It is hoped by the Pastoral Office that the delegates chosen will be an even mix of priests, religious and laity, as in Detroit.

The first track, "Open Input Design," coordinated by McGowan and Costello will allow for comments on the Detroit recommendations from any person in the diocese. The final recommendations, together with Cardinal John Dearden's recent address to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) in Washington and an explanation, by Bishop Hogan of A Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., will be published in their entirety in the Dec. 29 issue.

The same issue also will contain a tearout sheet where interested people can make their comments. This section is intended for recommendations other than the 20 special items. Comments on the 20 items should be directed to the local parishes and regions.

A preliminary report from the "Input" delegates to the public will be submitted by Feb. 20. Final reports are due on April 1. The purpose of "Open Input Design" is to allow as many people as possible to submit opinions, Father Hoffman said.

The "Study and Expertise Design," coordinated by Father Jankowiak, will insure that the recommendations will have "thorough research and reflection," Father Hoffman said.

Continued on Page 2



Father Brennan and Bishop Hogan.

Photo by Ben Susso

Fr. Brennan Leaves Seminary Position

Father Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary has stepped down so that he may have more time for teaching, study, research and writing.

A new rector will be named in January, the Pastoral Office announced.

Father Brennan stressed his personal "commitment to the seminary, to the work of training priests and to the preparation of others in other forms of ministry." Bishops of dioceses that send students here have been assured, he said, that the seminary will continue in the new directions charted a decade ago.

Father Brennan, a bible scholar and theologian educated in Rome and Jerusalem, has taught at St. Bernard's since 1957. Bishop James E. Kearney appointed him rector in 1966, as new programs for the education of diocesan clergy were being developed in the wake of Vatican II. The seminary has been open in Father Brennan's time, as a place for retreats and special liturgies arranged by outside groups, and it has offered continuing education opportunities for lay people as well as clergy and religious.

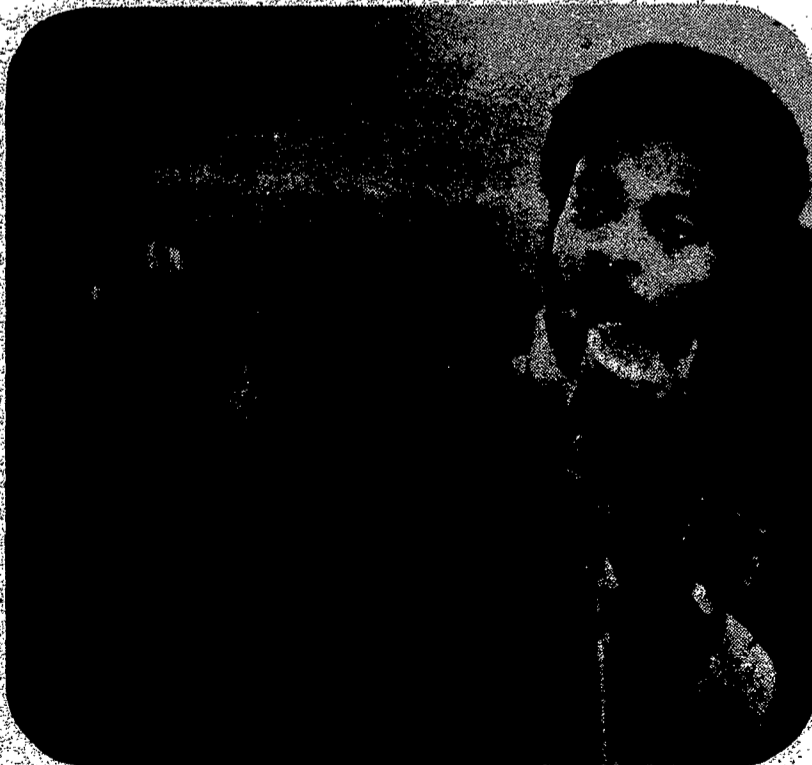
The retiring rector is an active

ecumenist. He is a member of the board of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry. He has spoken and written extensively in behalf of understanding between Christians and Jews. He hopes to find more time for such activities.

He is a native of Rochester, from Sacred Heart parish. An earlier seminary rector, the late Msgr. Wilfrid T. Craugh, was his uncle, as was the late Father Gerald T. Brennan, onetime pastor of St. Bridget's.

Having attended St. Andrew's Seminary and, for two years, St. Bernard's, Father Brennan pursued studies in theology and scripture for several years at the Gregorian University in Rome and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem. He was ordained in Rome on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1954.

He was assistant pastor of St. Jerome's, East Rochester, in 1957-58, and took a part-time job as an instructor at the Sisters of St. Joseph novitiate. This continued until he became rector of the seminary. As rector, he taught Old Testament courses, but "on a very modest scale," he said, because he has lacked time for research. He intends to correct this — "teaching is my first love" — and to work on a book about the Psalms.



Composer Speaks

Photo by Susan McKinney

Grayson Brown, nationally known composer, addresses a workshop on the black experience in liturgy, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Black Ministries. Brown also is the choir-master of St. Ann's Church in Brooklyn. The workshop, which featured singers from the Howard University Choir, was held in St. Francis Xavier Church last weekend.