

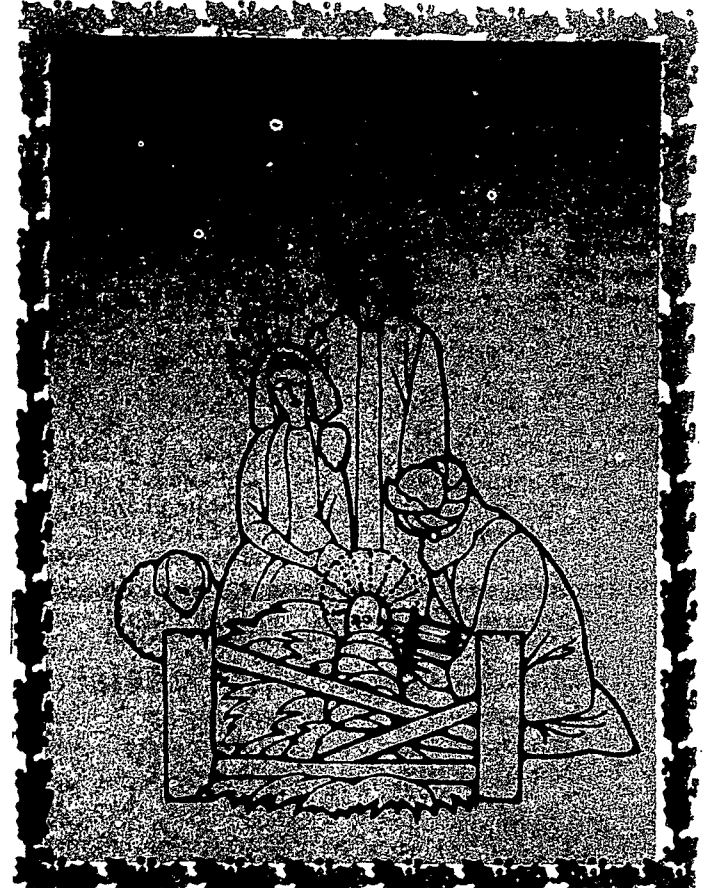
COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Pages

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 20 Cents



St. Mary's Hospital Launches Petition Drive to Save OB Unit

(See Bishop McCafferty's Letter, Page 2)

By JOHN DASH

Come Dec. 12 Sister DeChantal LaRow hopes to carry enough petitions from diocesans concerned with health care in the Rochester area to indicate to the Commissioner of Health in Albany that a religious waiver should be granted to St. Mary's Hospital obstetrical unit.

The petition drive, which opens this week in parishes around the diocese with the sanction of Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's representative to the health care facilities of the diocese, focuses on the fact that St. Mary's is the only religiously affiliated hospital between Syracuse and Buffalo.

(On Page 2 of this issue a petition form is printed for the use of Courier-Journal readers. Petitions should be returned as quickly as possible to:

Sister DeChantal LaRow
Administrator
St. Mary's Hospital
89 Genesee St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14611.

Sister DeChantal, administrator of the hospital, announced the drive last week, after she had received final word from Robert P. Whalen, state health commissioner, that he had accepted the recommendation of his advisors that a plan, which calls for the closing of St. Mary's obstetrical unit, be implemented in the region.

Also in the commissioner's letter was an indication that petitions for the religious waiver be sought within 30 days of the notice to close.

On Dec. 12, Sister DeChantal will be in Albany to meet with the Commissioner of Health. **Continued on Page 2**



Photo by Susan McKinney
Sister DeChantal watches as Nurse Peggy Webber lifts a new-born baby to the window in St. Mary's Hospital nursery. The facility's obstetrical unit has been threatened with fiscal sanctions if it does not close, but a religious waiver may be granted if enough diocesans respond to the hospital's petition drive.

68... and Alone In Rural Shack

Psychologists say that our miseries are amplified during the holiday season; that the very cheer of the season, real or just anticipated, accentuates the loneliness, the illness, the isolation, the poverty which many of us face.

If that is so then it would do us all well to contemplate some of the cases provided the Courier-Journal by agencies of Catholic Charities for this year's Courier-Journal Christmas Fund.

Think of a 68-year-old man, alone, living in a two-room rural shack. There is no running water. Only a wood-burning stove provides heat. He has no refrigeration. Where is the cheer?

Or take the mother of eight whose husband has deserted the family, leaving it badly in debt. Her principle concern at Christ-

mas time is just keeping the family together, let alone thoughts of celebration. Where is the care?

How about the 72-year-old woman, described as "spunky," who has lived through an eviction, a fire and a purse-snatching in last 10 months but is still looking ahead with hope in the future. Where is the supporting hand?

A small child, one of four in a family in which the parents are separated, is retarded "due to rejection" by her father. Where is the love?

The list is long, the miseries varied, the people from all walks of life. Isolation seems to be one of the main threads running through the cases.

All of the cases are true and all live in our diocese. For them, the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund. **Continued on Page 2**

World's Shortest Sermon? 'LOVE!'

Lake Orion, Mich. — "Love!" may go into the Guinness Book of World Records as the shortest sermon ever preached.

The Rev. John H. Albrecht preached that sermon on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, after a nationwide appeal for suggestions.

Father Albrecht, rector of St. Mary's in the Hills Episcopal Church, said in a telephone interview last

week that he had received responses from as far away as Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He noted that the event occasioned the children of the parish to create banners with one-word and briefly worded sermons, which were carried in procession into the church and then placed on the sanctuary walls.

"It was a beautiful service," he said.

Among the suggestions the Episcopal priest received were "Compassion," "Believe," "Repent" and "Lord." "Try God," and "UnSin," were also among the entries.

In an earlier report Father Albrecht said he got the idea for the shortest sermon from his friend, the Rev. Robert Marshall. Mr. Marshall, a Unitarian pastor is credited with having delivered the longest sermon (60 hours and 31 minutes) a year ago.

More of the 100 Neediest Cases in the Diocese

21 A lives alone, at the age of 68, in a two-room rural shack, five miles from the nearest village. He is without running water and refrigeration. His home is heated by a pot bellied stove.

22 M and B, both marginally employed, have 11 children, all under the age of 15. They live about two miles from the nearest village.

23 Mrs. W is a recently separated woman with one child and another expected soon. Her husband does not provide much financial support towards the household.

24 The Ds have four children, all suffering from various degrees of handicapping illnesses. Mrs.

D is herself disabled and suffering from diabetes. Though D is a hard worker, the family's medical problems often keep him from his job.

25 L is a recovered alcoholic, single and unemployed. His health is still poor, and, because of his past employment record he is finding it difficult to find a job. He has, however, not yet given up hope.

26 Mrs. T is raising her children by herself while her husband is confined for treatment of emotional problems. There is little chance that T will be released in the near future.

27 Mrs. M has eight children. When her husband deserted her recently, he took a good

deal of the furniture and left a number of unpaid bills. Since that time Mrs. M has been striving to pay the bills and keep her family together.

28 The T family is struggling to live on disability benefits, Social Security and the earnings of the oldest daughter. Both the mother and the oldest daughter are disabled. Another daughter lives in the house with her infant child and a son is severely retarded.

29 The As are a rural family living ten miles from the nearest village. They have six children. They recently attempted to purchase a mobile home but were unable to meet the payments, so now they are renting. The As both work, he at two jobs.

30 Three generations live in the B's house which is 70 years old, uninsulated and in a remote rural area. Only one member of the household is employed.

31 L is a young woman with a six month old daughter. L is endeavoring to improve herself and break out of the cycle of welfare and poverty. She has graduated from high school and is beginning business training.

32 Mrs. T is alone raising her six children, all under the age of 13. Her small public assistance grant barely meets her minimal needs.

33 The Fs and their four children live in an old house in the country. Employment has not been

steady and the food and fuel bills have been gigantic so far this winter.

34 S is an older, separated woman in poor health. She is trying to raise three children and has many bills to pay.

35 A lives alone in her large, old house. She is 90 years old and, since she can hardly walk, lives in a single downstairs room. She is suffering from malnutrition, and her deafness closes her out from what is going on.

36 Mrs. S is doing her best to keep her family together, but her monthly check barely meets the family's needs. She has been looking for employment but she is worried about ob-

taining proper day care for her children.

37 The Ns are both blind and attending special training programs for the blind. They are expecting their first child shortly.

38 The D family of four lives in a mobile home about 15 years old. Their home is located on a dirt road, behind a woods. D is only marginally employed.

39 Mrs. G is 67 and widowed. Her daughter died recently, and so Mrs. G now lives alone. She daily grows more and more depressed and lonely.

40 M is 55 years old and is dying of cancer. Her husband is an alcoholic. Her grown children now live out of state.