



The Holy Family by Ondo Florin of Nigeria.



The Nativity, from Switzerland.

Help the Poor This Christmas

41 The Hs are in their 80s. Recently, they had to move for the second time in 15 months because the house they were living in was sold. H is housebound and Mrs. H has had to cope with all the disruptions of moving on her own. The event has caused her considerable psychological and financial strain.

42 L is blind. He has been forced to live in a deteriorating neighborhood because he hasn't been able to find a decent place he can afford. He depends on the help of a few friends and his life is very lonely.

43 D once lived in an old house with his sisters. They both died recently, leaving him alone, in poor health and unable to manage for himself very well. He is extremely lonely and uncertain about his future. He also is depressed and does not eat properly.

44 In the past 10 months Mrs. W has been the victim of an unjust eviction, a fire and a purse-snatching. At the age of 72, she's come through it all with the hope that the future will bring her something better.

45 P lives in an inner-city apartment with three dogs for protection. She is very sick and barely able to care for herself, but refuses to be "put away" in a nursing home. Her friend who did everything for her recently passed away. Without this emotional and physical support, P is lost.

46 S has recently been reunited with her three children after a year and a half separation. She is trying to find employment and housing for her family while they are temporarily living with relatives.

47 The Ms have seven children, three of whom are disabled and placed in a development center. Because of illness, H is unable to work. The family must live on his small pension.

48 J is a young mother raising her pre-school daughter alone. Because she suffered brain damage as a child, J receives Social Security. For this reason she is unable to hold permanent employment, but she is able to be a good mother to her daughter. Because of her limited income she is unable to buy many things she needs.

49 The Ls live with their four children in a remote rural area. Since there has been sickness in the family this year, and since L has been out of work, they have not been able to meet their overdue bills.

50 The six-member A family lives in an isolated mobile home in a rural area. Their shelter badly needs insulation.

51 M is severely ill. She is 42 years old and the mother of five young children whom she is raising alone. She is living on a fixed income that barely meets her family's needs.

52 K is 50 years old. He was left to raise his two children when his wife deserted him. He is unemployed and disabled. He is living on a fixed income.

53 Mrs. T is unemployed and disabled. She is 49 years old and has been raising her three grandsons for the past few years. The boys' separated and neither wanted the responsibility of raising the children.

54 Mrs. W is responsible for the care and constant supervision of her 23 year old daughter. The daughter is severely retarded and requires constant attention.

55 Several months ago, Mrs. F's husband left her and their four small children. Recently Mrs. F has been informed by her doctor that she is pregnant with her fifth child, due early next year. What small amount of money she has been able to save will now be spent for the to-be-born child.

56 The house where 80-year-old Mrs. A has rented an apartment for 20 years is being sold and she now has to move. She has found a suitable apartment in the same familiar neighborhood but does not have enough money for both the security deposit and the first month's rent.

57 The children in the rural G family range in age from 4 to 17. The three eldest try to help their mother as much as they can, but since so much has to be spent on food and utilities there is little money left over for extras.

58 There are 10 persons in the B household living in an old home in the country. The father is marginally employed and faces great difficulties in caring for his wife and children.

59 Little more than a year ago Mrs. C moved to the diocese with her two small children. She recently lost her job and has come under severe financial pressures — pressures which have forced her to live in a studio apartment just so she can make ends meet.

60 F is presently unemployed and on her fixed income is trying to make ends meet for herself and her two small children.

The sculptures and carvings pictured on this page represent events in the life of the infant Jesus, as they have been interpreted by artists both far and near.



The Virgin and Child, from Switzerland.