

Photo by Susan McKinney

Msgr. Burns receives the medal from Bishop Hogan. (Other picture, Page 2)

Msgr. Burns Honored For Service to Church

Msgr. Richard Burns got a big surprise on Sunday. At the close of the Mass he was concelebrating with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan to mark the 40th anniversary of Msgr. Burns' ordination to the priesthood, he was presented with the papal medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

The medal is bestowed by

the pontiff on those who, in a general way, deserve well of the pope on account of services done for the Church and its head, according to the Catholic Encyclopedia.

Msgr. Burns, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church and former vice-rector of the North American College in Rome, is the first person in the diocese to receive the

medal in more than 40 years.

Msgr. Burns is also the first clergyman to receive the decoration here.

The medal was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 in memory of his golden sacerdotal jubilee. It was made a permanent distinction 10 years later. It is made of gold, silver or bronze.

The medal is a cross made octagonal in form by fleurs-de-lis fixed in the angles of the cross in a special manner. The extremities of the cross are of a slightly patonce form. In the center of the cross is a small medal with an image of its founder. Encircling the image are the words "Leo XIII P.M. Anno X." On the obverse side are the papal emblems in the center, and in the circle surrounding the emblems the motto "Pro Deo et Pontifice" is stamped. On the obverse surface of the branches of the cross are comets, which, with the fleurs-de-lis, form the coat of arms of the Pecci family.

On the reverse side are stamped the words Pridae, Kal., Januar., 1888.

According to Father Robert McNamara, the medal was last given in the diocese in 1932. At that time five leading Catholic laywomen were presented the award. Two years earlier a layman had received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

DEADLINE CHANGE

All contributors to the Courier-Journal are reminded that because of the holidays the deadlines for the Dec. 28 issue and the Jan. 4 issue will be Wednesday noon, Dec. 21, and Wednesday noon, Dec. 28, respectively.

Private School Funds Disallowed by Court

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — The U. S. Supreme Court in a 6-3 ruling, struck down a New York state law that provides about \$11 million dollars to some 2,000 religiously-related schools annually as recompense for record-keeping and testing expenses.

The Court's majority opinion, written by Justice Potter Stewart, said the 1972 law is unconstitutional because it has "the primary effect of aiding religion, or will result in excessive state involvement in religious affairs."

The New York law, a substitute for an earlier law enacted to reimburse non-public schools for administrative services, had been upheld by the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, after an earlier 1970 law had been

struck down by a federal court. In their dissent, Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice William Rehnquist said they upheld the New York appeals court ruling.

Justice Byron White, in his dissent, charged the Court's majority with misconstruing the First Amendment "in a manner that discriminates against religion and is contrary to the fundamental educational needs of the country."

In Albany, N. Y., Gov. Carey of New York described the decision "regrettable" and promised to "look carefully at the decision to see if there is any way we can revise the law to make it meet the requirements laid down by the Court."

The U. S. Supreme Court Continued on Page 2

Snow Halts Meetings

Both the Priests Council and the Diocesan Sisters Council canceled meetings last week because of the winter snow storms and the subsequent hazardous driving conditions.

According to Father Louis Hohman, president of the Priests' Council, his

executive committee is still searching for another date this month to meet.

Sisters Council president, Sister Barbara Moore, however, said that no meeting would be scheduled for that body. The agenda for December, she said, would be added to the January program.

Courier-Journal Christmas Fund

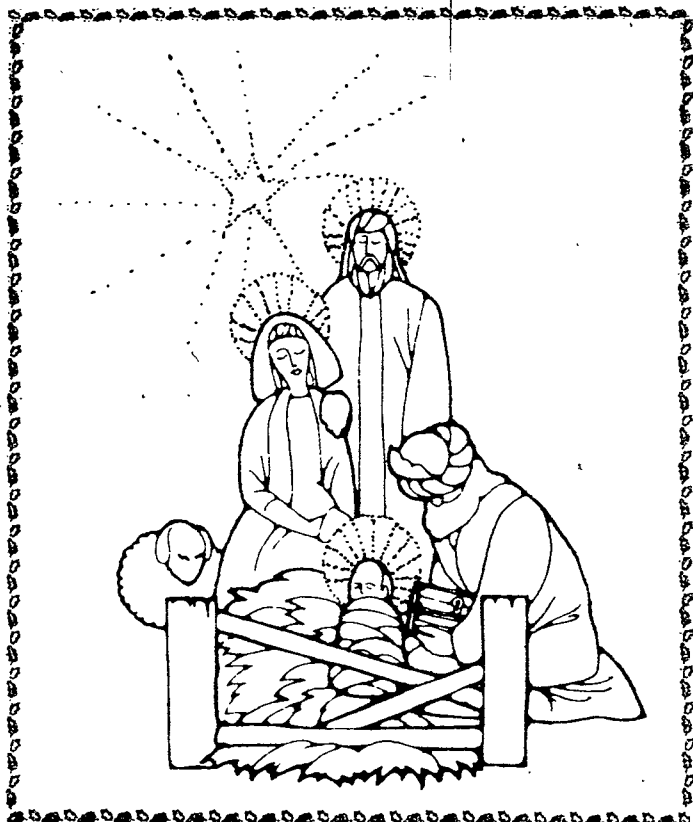
The Things of a Child

In a discourse on charity in Corinthians, Paul writes, "When I was a child I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away the things of a child."

How a child feels. How a child thinks. The things of a child. Surely we all know how a child feels and thinks at Christmas. For many, it is a warm, safe and joyous time. For others it may be a time of rejection. Some children become "men" too soon and have no "things" to set aside.

These are the needy children at Christmas and there are many in our own diocese. A perusal of the neediest cases supplies the evidence. The Courier-Journal Christmas Fund, run in conjunction with Catholic Charities, aims at making Christmas come alive for these children, too, in the name of the poor boy, the one whose birthday we are noting, who was a poor boy, too.

Somehow, of all the cases — the lonely, the depressed, the isolated, the infirm — the most heart-rending are of the children who may not know the joy of this Christmas. The Courier-Journal Christmas Fund was established nine years ago to help these children, and all the needy of our diocese, at this holy time.



Each year we publish the 100 neediest cases as provided by the agencies of Catholic Charities. But even these many cases are only a portion of the many more being cared for by the Charities agencies.

The cases represent all parts of the diocese, urban and rural. Any parish with specific 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, the administering agencies must use their expertise to see that as many as possible are helped.

All contributions should be sent to:

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

The 100 Neediest Cases

61 The winter has been especially hard on the M family this year. The five Ms live in poverty outside of a rural village.

62 N is caring for her eight-month-old daughter on her welfare budget. N is badly in need of clothing both for herself and her baby.

63 Mrs. T is an elderly grandmother, with diabetes and other health problems, who lives in difficult circumstances. She is caring for two grandchildren who have been abandoned by their parents. She is in need of clothing, furniture and food.

64 M is raising her two sons by herself. The family's welfare budget leaves the children without the means to join in on sports activities in both school and community. Mrs. M. has great need for help with purchasing clothing and paying school expenses.

65 The Ds are loving and caring parents to their four school-age children and their baby girl. It has been a lean year since D injured his back at work. He's now recovering from an operation which will take another six months to heal completely. Their cupboards are often bare.

66 H is going to business school while on welfare for herself and her year-old daughter. She is striving mightily to break out of the poverty cycle she finds herself in.

67 In the past year the Ws have been burned out and W himself has injured his back and is unable to work. The couple has eight children. The family is in need of just about every necessity.

68 G is an elderly foreign gentleman, retired and partially blind, who lives alone. He is in need of special help preparing food because he has diabetes.

69 C is 39 years old, raising six children solely on the disability check she receives from Social Security. Three of the children do not even have a bed to sleep in, so they take turns sleeping on the sofa and on the floor.

70 Mrs. B is bedridden, diabetic and partially blind. Her two grandchildren help her as best they can. She is in need of foods, bedding and clothing for herself and the children.

71 The Ds are inner city residents. Although he is employed, D's salary cannot cover the expense of school clothing for his five children nor pay for much

needed furniture and household goods.

72 M is a young woman with a history of severe emotional problems and depression. She had been coping with her life and furthering her education until the past year when several traumas occurred in her life to upset her delicate balance. She is beginning to recover but has been unable to work or continue college, and has had to seek financial aid through welfare. She is unable to find help from relatives.

73 Mrs. T is separated from her husband of many years. She has three teenage children. T begrudgingly contributes what the court has told him to give in support and many times is critical and argumentative when he visits the family. Because they were married such a length of time, Mrs. T was not trained for employment and has been unable to find any. The family's financial difficulties are great.

74 R would like to leave the building where she lives. The neighborhood is declining and she does not feel safe there. However, she is unable to save enough

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