

## Pope Paul: Christmas . . . A Look Ahead

Vatican City (RNS) — "Christmas is not only a backward glance at the birth of Jesus in the crib. It is a look forward to the new and future glorious coming of Christ who will judge the living and dead."

Those were the words of Pope Paul as he addressed thousands of pilgrims at his weekly general audience last week. His talk centered on the coming of Christ.

"Christmas is coming, and Christmas makes us think of Christ who has come and about Christ who will come again. We can never meditate enough on this event . . . whereby Christ becomes our Savior and the founder of the Church," the Pope said.

"Christmas looks not only to the crib but to the future, and this future will be full of wonderful reality. Our moral values here and now have a relationship to Christ coming as judge — the One who has been our brother, our teacher, the bread of life, the One who has taught us the meaning of fraternal love. For us, then Christmas is the coming of Christ in the gospel and His coming at the end of time."

## Courier-Journal Fund

# They Need Help at Christmas

Christmas is almost here

The bulk of the shopping has been done, the cards sent. Brightly decorated trees can be seen through the windows of homes. For most of us, the problems connected with the holiday have been handled.

But there are others in our diocese, who have concerns that they cannot manage, alone.

How does an unemployed father explain to his children why there will be no presents this year?

How does an elderly person reconcile himself or herself to the plight of being alone on Christmas?

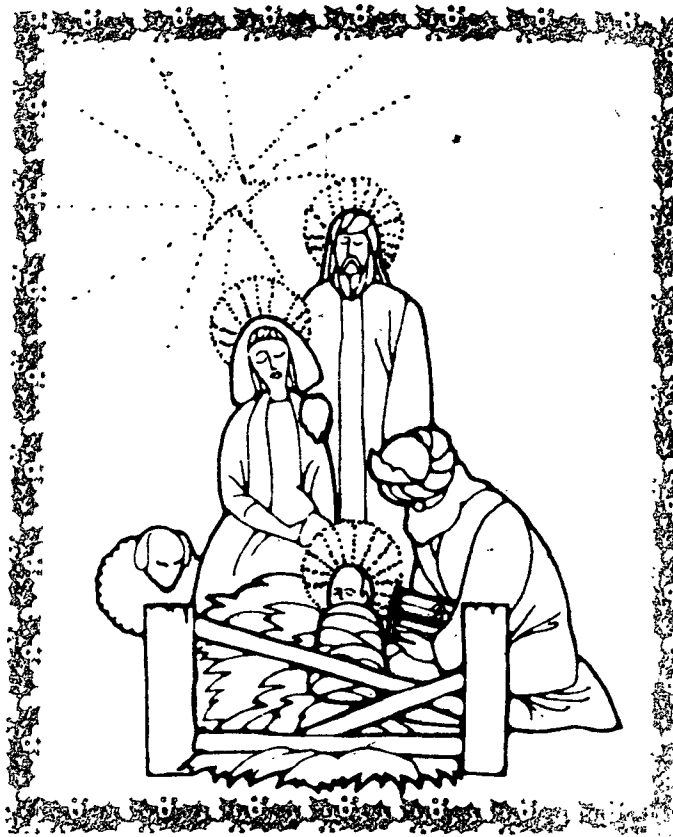
How does the deserted and impoverished mother explain the wonder of Christmas to her family?

Because such questions

are real, the Courier-Journal instituted its Christmas Fund, run in conjunction with Catholic Charities. Armed with the proceeds the workers of the various agencies of Catholic Charities are able to help the people victimized and suffering from a variety of societal ills.

The 100 neediest cases are all real and all are in the diocese. Those wishing to do so may contribute to a particular case but because some receive a great deal of attention and others none the agencies of Catholic Charities must use their expertise to see that as many as possible are helped.

We print only 100 cases, actually they are only representative of many more, both urban and rural, throughout our diocese. Contributions should be sent to:



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

## 100 Neediest Cases

**81** M is in her 80s, and to demonstrate her spunk, moved out of the house of relatives recently because she felt out of place in their lives. The move has caused a severe rift in family harmony, and has placed M in a precarious financial situation.

**82** Social Security, disability benefits and the earnings of a daughter are not enough for the R family in which the mother, the oldest daughter are both disabled and a son is retarded.

**83** Mrs. A is desperately seeking work to be able to take care of her young family but obtaining proper day care for the children has been a serious obstacle.

**84** Lonely and depressed, Mr. B is alone in the world and his poor health has been aggravated by the fact that he is not eating properly.

**85** Mrs. X is a widow with two lively and bright boys. She works hard, but at the minimal hourly rate. Although she just manages to meet her monthly expenses, she is unable to buy Christmas gifts for her children.

**86** Mrs. G is a factory worker with five children. G is disabled and depressed so the responsibility for keeping the family together rests on Mrs. G's shoulders.

**87** Mrs. S is a mother of a three-year-old boy. She struggles to find work to support herself and the child. The father deserted them shortly after the child was born. He cannot be located.

**88** X has given his two children a good home in the past year. The mother deserted the family just about a year ago. With employment cutbacks locally, X was laid off and is now on unemployment insurance. Despite his efforts, he has been unable to find other employment.

**89** R is a 19-year-old orphan who was cared for in a foster home. He is bright and ambitious and through after-school work and scholarships, he is now a college freshman. Clothing and spending money is a problem, and he foregoes outings with his friends simply because he cannot afford recreation.

**90** The Cs are struggling to meet the needs of their nine-member family on a small fixed income. Christmas to them means increased fuel bills and insufficient bedding or clothing to keep the children warm. The family is in arrears from last year's fuel bill caused by an old furnace that is now virtually inoperable.

**91** Mrs. J, deserted by her husband is struggling to provide one of her several children with some help on tuition. The family lives on a severely limited budget.

**92** K is an elderly woman, living alone on a small retirement income. K is also diabetic and is in serious need of help to purchase clothing and foods for her special diet.

**93** B is less than 30-years-old. She has been deserted and left to raise her son alone. She does her best for him, but for now cannot afford to buy a bed for him to sleep in to replace the one he has outgrown. She receives no financial support from the child's father.

**94** D is a grandmother with overwhelming responsibilities. She is raising her two teenage daughters and is also raising two of her grandchildren. The family is living solely on the small check that D receives monthly.

**95** A, her daughter, and her two grandchildren are living in a two bedroom apartment. A continues to hope that eventually the situation will improve, that she will be able to provide her daughter and grandchildren a better life in the future.

**96** The Hs were unable to provide even the basic necessities for their small children, so H's brother, and the eldest son and daughter decided to help providing care for the other nine children. The family exists on an extremely limited budget, but that is a secondary consideration to them. The family is extremely happy that it has been able to stay together.

**97** In the past few years, Mrs. B has been raising her four young children by herself. She is a recipient of public assistance and has found it difficult to make ends meet on such a limited income. No money can be budgeted for the simplest of pleasures at Christmas.

**98** D is a disabled veteran of WWII and of the Korean conflict. He and his wife have three small children. Mrs. D has recently found employment after an extended period of joblessness. While she wasn't working, however,

many bills accumulated which now have to be paid. Throughout all their trials the family did not apply for public assistance for fear they would lose their home. There will be no money for a Christmas celebration in the D home.

**99** The joy of Mrs. E's pregnancy last year was tempered with the fact that she gave birth to triplets and thus doubled the size of her family. She has been able to provide the most basic needs of her children, but the family lacks such items as adequate bedding, furniture, and floor coverings.

**100** When G's sister died, he and his wife assumed the care of her children. Though the G's are employed and also receive a small benefit from Social Security, the money is budgeted very closely. There are now 10 children in the family. No money can be set aside for Christmas.



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Picture

The photograph of Christ's birthplace in Bethlehem was taken in late November by Basilian Father Michael Biondi, associate pastor of Christ the King Church. Father Biondi, who returned from a brief holiday in the Holy Land on Dec. 6, explained that he took the picture with "a 10-year-old Nikon, using a 55mm f2 lens." Prior to Father Biondi's Christ the King assignment, he taught Italian and English at Aquinas Institute.

### DEADLINE CHANGE

All contributors to the Courier-Journal are reminded that because of the holidays the deadline for the Dec. 28 issue is today at noon; and for the Jan. 4 issue, Wednesday noon on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

## Holiday Hours at RG&E

In observance of the holidays, all Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation offices will be closed on:

Friday afternoon,	December 23
Monday,	December 26
Friday afternoon,	December 30
Monday,	January 2

Emergency service is always available, 24 hours a day, by calling 546-1100 (or 454-1133) in the Rochester area. Emergency numbers for our District offices are: Enterprise 9149 in Canandaigua/Finger Lakes District; Enterprise 9188 in Genesee Valley District; and Enterprise 9429 in Lake Shore District. For customers outside Rochester, please consult your local telephone directory.



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