

Thanksgiving, 1978: 29th Clothing Drive

Of all the claims on Christian charity that are put forth at this time of year, the one that doesn't even scratch our money is the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive, here once more, and for the 29th time.

As in the past several years, the need is for light-weight clothing, because — aren't we lucky? — earth's natural disasters and devastating wars are thousands of miles away from us, in hot climates.

Bales of blankets are needed, too, in the wake of these calamities, Catholic Relief Services points out.

Since 1950, CRS reports, American Catholics have turned over more than 450 million pounds of such useful materials.

Lourdes Perez-Albuern, who coordinates clothing drive operations for the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, has

sent out a letter to pastors about packing and trucking. She asks that any temperate zone clothes that come out of the great closet cleaning be set aside for later delivery to clothing depots throughout the diocese, because they are needed at home, and CRS can't afford to warehouse things for

which there is no foreseeable use. It is suggested also that money be contributed to pay the freight. That's about all there is to it... except for the parishioners who do the sorting and folding and packing, and organize the box and truck details. Parish bulletins are carrying time schedules.

"Dessie"

A short drama that explores root causes of some parents' violence against their children will be performed tonight at 7:30 at the Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave. under the aegis of Children's Alliance — Monroe County. The play, Dessie, was written

by Conrad and Linda Bishop, who have presented it in 24 states during the past two years "to increase awareness of the pressures that can lead to child abuse" and of the ways in which the community is responding.

Groups Endorse Nestle Boycott

(From Courier-Journal Services)

The Diocese of Albany, the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches and the Province Assembly of the New York Province of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Union in the USA, within the past few days have all joined in backing a boycott against the products of the Nestle Company.

Nestle is a Swiss-based firm which makes food products including an infant formula. The boycott has been raised because of Nestle's alleged unfair advertising and marketing procedures in promoting the infant formula in the Third World.

In Albany, all diocesan institutions will support the boycott, Father Robert Roos, chancellor, indicated last week in a memo to all parochial and diocesan personnel.

"This effort should be seen in the context of the Church's commitment to social justice

and human rights," the memo explained.

Gerald Porath, the Catholic schools superintendent, indicated that the diocese's 75 schools with some 21,000 students would participate in the boycott, and said that the negative step, cutting off all contact with Nestle's, had already been taken.

In the Sisters of Mercy resolution endorsing the boycott, the assembly called "on Nestle to cease promoting the sale of its infant formula in areas where conditions are such that artificial feeding causes damage to the life and health of infants."

The assembly further called "upon the Federation of the Sisters of Mercy to study this issue and take whatever action they deem wise" and called "on Nestle to work with concerned groups in doing further research on the relationship of infant formula to infant malnutrition in developing nations."

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