

*Some Ideas  
For Children's  
Christmas Books . . 8*



# COURIER-JOURNAL

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Photo by Susan McKinney

## In Memoriam

The people who gathered at Nazareth College Sunday in memory of Thomas Merton made the acquaintance of a longtime personal friend of the famed Trappist writer — Father Irenaeus Herscher, OFM, librarian emeritus at St. Bonaventure University. Here, they get a distant view of a journal that Merton kept 37 years ago, while he was teaching English at the university. Father Irenaeus points out tear stains on the final page, written the day Merton decided to enter Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky. (The celebration arranged by the Thomas Merton Society of Rochester will be covered in more detail in next week's Courier-Journal).

## Our Poor Lay Claim To Our Hearts, Gifts

Pain always worse this time of day, she thinks. It is 5 a.m. Through the window she sees the street, barren of traffic. A hard, fine snow scuds over the surface beneath the icy brilliance of the street lights. In the apartment below her rooms a radio is playing the old Gospel song, "Weary, Oh Lord, I'm Weary."

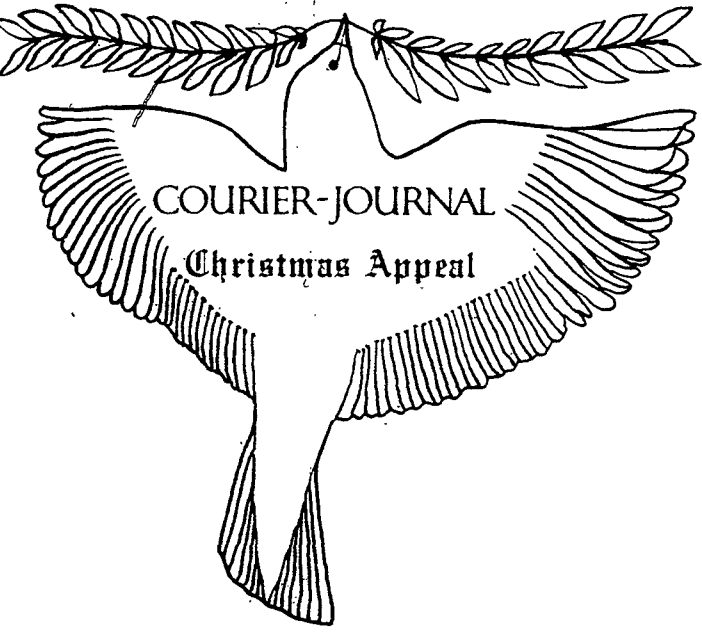
Only cold water runs in the taps these days. Cold, inside and out, she murmurs to herself. And tomorrow, Lord knows what.

She cannot allow herself even to think about Christmas. For nearly a week now each sight of the festive decorations the merchants have strung up brings the hopeless aching to her heart.

No, she chides herself. The children got food in their bellies. We are still together this year. Thank you, Jesus, she prays.

But, Weary, Oh Lord, I'm weary, she confesses.

And oh, how she would love to see a sparkle in their poor darling little eyes come Christmas morning. Some laughter in this house. This house hasn't had laughter



**Neediest Cases,  
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since Jess ran off, she says aloud to the walls.

The sound of her own voice startles her out of her reverie.

She busies herself fussing up a breakfast for the oldest girl to give the youngsters.

It is time to go to work, work cleaning up other peoples' messes, she mutters.

But, Oh Lord, I'm weary, just so weary.

These stories are about our

To 2

## THE PROCESS

*1,500 Questionnaires In,  
Deadline Is Friday, Dec. 15*

In less than a week, about 1,500 priests, sisters, brothers and lay people across the diocese have returned their questionnaires as part of the process to determine the profile of the man to replace Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as ordinary of the diocese.

The forms were mailed to some 12,000 persons and by Courier-Journal presstime Monday, nearly 1,500 returns were in. The questionnaires went to all members of the three consultative bodies — the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Priests Council and Sisters Council and to a large sampling of the laity, selected at random. A percentage of native American, black, Hispanic (the questionnaire was translated into Spanish), youth, deaf and imprisoned were among those surveyed.

"We strongly urge all of those who have not yet sent in their questionnaires to do so before Friday's deadline," cautioned Father James Marvin, chairman of the Selection of Bishops Committee, which prepared the questions.

"We, of course, are pleased by the heavy return so quickly but we want every single questionnaire sent back to provide added validity and as broad-based support as possible to the process," Father Marvin said.

He said the forms will be computerized at the Diocesan Planning Office.

Then hearings will be scheduled at the 10 regions throughout the diocese. A report will then be sent to

the apostolic delegate, Archbishop Jean Jadot.

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## A Prayer

Prayer is an integral part of the new process for the selection of a bishop as it is being conducted in this diocese, and Father Robert Kennedy, diocesan chief of liturgy, has drawn together a package of material to help diocesans pray for the success of the program.

Drawing on the most ancient of the liturgical sources in the Church's possession, he has composed a Prayer for a New Bishop, for use by individuals and small groups

outside of the Eucharistic setting, a brief Scripture Service and a number of general intercessions for use during Mass.

The Prayer for a New Bishop, he said last week, is based on that composed by Hippolytus, who in the Second Century recorded the liturgical practices of the infant Church up to that time. The prayer found in Hippolytus' writings is used today at the ordination of a bishop, he said.

† † †

### PRAYER FOR A NEW BISHOP

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Father of mercy and God of all comfort  
all life, all goodness, come from you.

You sealed a covenant in faith with our ancestors,  
people of promise,  
to inherit the word of your grace  
that your glory might shine forth in those you have  
chosen.

From before time began  
you desired that servants of love and kindness,  
wisdom and faithfulness  
would arise to gather your people  
into one body, one spirit, and one Lord.

Show us your power and love  
which you have given through your Son  
to the apostles.

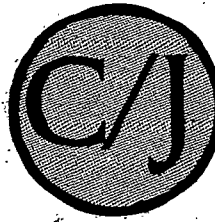
Send us a bishop who is filled with the spirit of the  
apostles,  
chosen by your hand to be your servant and our  
brother.

Impart your Spirit of holiness and counsel upon him,  
and all your holy Church,  
that he may exercise the full priesthood of all believers  
blamelessly before you.

Renew your Church in the Diocese of Rochester  
as the place where the glory of your name is forever  
praised.

We ask this through your Son and our Lord,  
Jesus Christ,  
with whom be honor and glory and power to you,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

Amen.



**Special  
Report**

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