

**Pope
Visits
Turkey . . . 6**

**The Divisions,
Special
Ministries . . . 9**

**Kinship
Fun
Run . . . 18**

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OUR 96th YEAR

25 Cents

Needy Fund . . . Warm Support

Across the diocese, individuals and groups are responding to the 1979 Catholic Courier-Journal — Catholic Charities Christmas Fund. Moved by a sense of compassion and of justice they are giving to make Christmas brighter for those exemplified in the neediest cases.

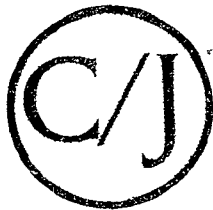
Each of the stories of the neediest cases is true. In order to protect the dignity of the individuals and families whose plight is revealed, some identifying information is not given.

In each story is an invitation to ease the burdens of our fellow diocesans.

It was noted last week in this regard that "We exercise responsible stewardship when we look and care for the needs of one another, especially the neediest, to enable all people to be fully alive and in love with life."

And throughout the area, diocesans are indeed responding to the Courier-Journal — Catholic Charities Christmas Fund. Clubs and organizations are contributing as well as individuals to the appeal.

Each week the Courier-Journal will publish these true stories of suffering, stories of people who deserve our special consideration.



**Christmas
Fund**

Persons and groups wishing to contribute to the appeal are asked to send their contributions to:

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

Church Bells Toll For Iran Hostages

New York (RNS)— Church bells in many communities have been ringing briefly at noon each day as a call to prayer and reflection on behalf of the 49 hostages held in the American embassy in Teheran.

This practice came about in response to a Thanksgiving Day message from U. S. charge d'affairs in Teheran, Bruce Laingen. Mr. Laingen, who is being detained in "protective custody" in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested prayers for the restoration of peace in the Iranian situation and concluded: "Let the nation's church bells ring with that message and that hope."

The Episcopal National Cathedral in Washington and Mr. Laingen's home parish, All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, Md., have made the daily one and a half to two-minute observance since Thanksgiving.

Mr. Laingen's request appears to have spread primarily through the media, rather than an concerted church effort. The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, Mass., has

been tolling its 160-year-old bell 49 times a day, once for each hostage. The Rev. Clarke Shaaf said he read about the Thanksgiving message in the newspapers. He began the

observance at his United Church of Christ congregation last Sunday. "It's a reminder to pray for those hostages and to support our president," he said.

Bishop's Letter

The following letter was mailed Nov. 29 to every pastor in the diocese.

Dear Father:

President Carter has called upon us to demonstrate our prayerful concern for the Americans now being held hostage in Iran.

I am requesting that we respond to this call by ringing our church bells at noon each day, until all of the hostages have been released.

May I also suggest that you continue to remember the hostages in the general intercessions at all parish Eucharistic liturgies; and encourage all of our people to pray each day for a peaceful resolution to this crisis.

With my prayers, I am

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

†Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

Neediest Cases

26 The Ds are taking protective custody of their grandson, a baby with multiple medical problems. D's take home pay is limited, and on this he is supporting a family of eight. He has questioned whether to purchase food for the family or medicines for the baby.

27 L and B are teenagers who go to school, hold parttime jobs and each day attend to the responsibilities of caring for their invalid mother. They have been able to do this only by devising the strictest budget.

28 L recently fled from the abuse of her alcoholic husband, taking her five children with her. The family has found an unfurnished, unheated apartment; but L has yet to find employment though she is skilled as a nurse's aide.

29 K is the mother of five children, two of whom are physically handicapped and have been living outside the home. These children will shortly return home for good. Happy at the prospect, K nevertheless worries about the future since she is on a very limited income and her apartment is already too small.

30 E is 60. She has lost her life savings paying the medical expenses of her husband's long and terminal illness. Now widowed, she recently suffered the loss of an adult child as well. She holds a parttime job, but her income barely covers her expenses.

31 H is a kidney patient whose pension is minimal. A great deal of his

income must go for heating his home.

32 A, a widow nearing 90, and her 60-year-old daughter live together, but the cost of shelter and utilities amounts to more than half of their combined monthly incomes. They are waiting, on a long list, for subsidized housing.

33 N lives alone in a dilapidated house in a remote rural area. Her social

security checks leave very little for food and fuel.

34 B is having difficulties finding work. He lost his previous job through work cutbacks. His wife has taken employment in a nursing home to help meet family expenses, but her income is barely enough to cover the increasing costs of food and fuel.

Continued on page 3

Guess Who Was Watching?

Those Rochesterians that switched their radios to WVOR-FM 100 last Friday morning heard more than the usual good-natured antics between popular morning show host Jack Palvino and newsmen Dick Tobias.

They were witness to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, hovering over the chilly city in the WVOR Skybird traffic helicopter, immortalizing himself along with many other great celebrity traffic reporters such as Mayor Thomas P. Ryan, County Manager Lucien Morin and Dennis Bookshester, president of Sibley's.

Riding in an Enstrom F-28C-2 helicopter piloted by Ron DiChario, president of Norcross Helicopters, the Bishop toured the city with Officer Gary Chard of the

Rochester Police Department from 7 a.m. until about 8:25 a.m. During this time, Officer Chard regularly gives five traffic reports on the city's most congested thoroughfares. When each report was completed, there was time for some informal conversation between ground and air — Palvino and Bishop Clark.

"This is a great perspective of the city," Bishop Clark said. "It's very beautiful with all the activity below."

"Have you spotted any new jogging trails, Bishop?" asked Palvino.

"I picked out a couple," laughed the Bishop. "I think I'm going back to Cobbs Hill Park."

"I guess being up there puts you closer to management," quipped Palvino.

Among Bishop Clark's other remarks was one directed to the parishioners of St. Andrew's Church. The Bishop noted that Friday was St. Andrew's feast day and informed those listening that he was thinking about them.

Bishop Clark had been up in a helicopter once before, at Watkins Glen during the Grand Prix in October.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan