

Neediest Cases

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35 For the last eight years, O has been struggling to care for her six children and an elderly, infirm father. Her husband has been imprisoned all this time. The family's fixed income compounds the family's difficulties and food is occasionally scarce.

36 G and her four children were abandoned by her husband, and were left to struggle with his unpaid bills as well. In addition G is suffering both emotional and physical illness; the family house is in need of repairs and the children have no winter clothing. The family income is so meager it will not cover these expenses.

37 W is the mother of two. She recently had open heart surgery and her doctor has not allowed her to resume working. At the present time she is living on a small disability check. Her apartment's heat is furnished by a gas stove.

38 H is the guardian of her five grandchildren whose mother was killed several years ago. Three of the children have been diagnosed as emotionally handicapped and cannot attend regular school. The family has been plagued with numerous hardships; and H's fixed income does not cover all the needs which arise.

39 The Gs are a young couple expecting their first child. They recently moved to this country on friends' promises of employment and shelter. Once G found a job, however, he became seriously ill and was hospitalized. The friends withdrew their support. G is extremely anxious over both wife's pregnancy and the prospects for another job.

40 P is emotionally disturbed and mildly

retarded. She lives alone and her fixed income is so limited it barely covers her basic needs.

41 H is the mother of three and on a fixed income which does not adequately cover the cost of raising her family. She has had several set backs recently, because of emotional problems. In addition, she has been diagnosed as asthmatic and is unable to continue with her parttime job.

42 Y and her three children recently moved to the area. She was a victim of wife abuse. Since trying to make a better life for herself and her children, she has faced numerous hardships, not least of which was finding suitable housing — a task she has not yet accomplished. The family fled the former city with a single suitcase.

43 K is struggling to raise her young son. She has worked hard to get off public assistance, and, now that she has a job, is trying to provide for herself and her child. She has budgeted herself strictly so to meet her expenses. She cannot provide however for special expenses.

44 H is an elderly woman, handicapped by a stroke. Shortly after the stroke, her husband died, leaving her with few emotional resources.

45 S faces nursing home placement. He has been deserted by his family and cannot adequately take care of himself because of his physical disabilities. His only wish is to remain in the community he lives in.

46 The Vs live with five of their nine children in the central city. Both are employed full-time in low-paying jobs. They have managed to stay off public assistance, but their combined income is so meager, there is no money left for special expenses, such as holiday celebrations.

47 L is a middle-age mother with seven children and two grandchildren to support on her income from a low-paying job. Her necessities budget cannot encompass the expense of a holiday.

48 C is a widower with three teenage sons. The family recently moved here and have little, besides a house. C is as yet unemployed and living solely off a Social Security check which barely covers the cost of food and fuel.

49 The Ls are a family of four facing severe hardship. Mrs. L is in the hospital at this time with possible inflammation of the brain. L is literally working around the clock to keep down the family debt and to feed his children. The house they live in lacks even some basic utilities.

50 D lives in an urban area and has sole

responsibility for the care of two children, one nephew and two grandchildren. Her medical bills of late have

been quite large, and she is finding herself unable to meet her monthly bills on her small income. She runs

out of food money, no matter how hard she tries to stretch her budget. She has a serious heart condition.

Pope Urges Capital To Listen to Labor

Vatican City (RNS)—Pope John Paul II urged businessmen and industrialists to be more attentive to the social doctrine of the Church and to listen more attentively to the workers.

At a special audience with some 1,200 members of the Italian Christian Union of Businessmen and Managers, the pope said that many labor conflicts derive from a lack of understanding between employers and employees.

"It is necessary for the

industrialist or manager to give more attention to the worker and improve his understanding of the worker's legitimate desire for justice and equality," the pontiff said. "The employer should withstand any egoistic temptations."

The pope urged his audience to apply the church's social doctrine and to discover in it "the reasons capable of justifying, indeed promoting, a new order in society founded on respect for the human person and on the

promotion of the common good."

Calling for sympathetic attention to workers' grievances, the pope observed that "every negligence in this field is harmful; every delay fatal."

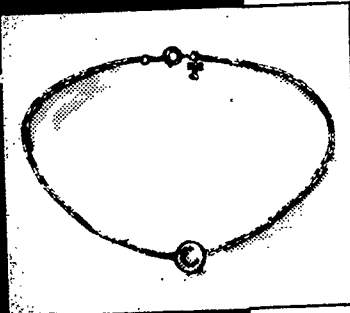
"Many conflicts and antagonisms between workers and managers are rooted in the infertile ground of the lack of attention, the refusal of dialogue or mutual misunderstanding," he said.

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