

Editorials

Chance to Help

We at the Courier-Journal, just as our readers, get upset when reading the plight described in the 100 neediest cases in the diocese as provided by the agencies of Catholic Charities.

Although we are all aware of the general problem of poverty, of loneliness, of isolation, when we read the graphic accounts of the suffering individuals and families, the problem is brought home with more force.

And the anguish of the 100 neediest cases becomes even more distressing when played against the background of this joyous (for most) time of the year. It would be even more frustrating if we did not know where to turn to help.

For that reason we established the Courier-Journal

Christmas Fund 10 years ago. Working through the expertise and administration of the agencies of Catholic Charities, this fund is able to give direct aid to our brothers and sisters suffering most.

There are only six giving days left until Christmas, as far as helping those in need right now. We ask those desiring to help not to put it off. Time is short and the mail has a way of backing up this time of the year.

Help. It will deepen the meaning of your own Christmas.

From Us to You

Merry Christmas...

From "Johnny" Pinkerton who's retirin'
And from man about town Thomas Finan.
From Mary Ann Ginney, who's going, too,
And from our wise man, dear Father Lou.

Joy from Peg Connolly our principal checker,
And Deck the Halls with our Thomas Decker.
From Scotty Schuman a real happy Yule,
And from Joan Smith who'll see you in school.

Happy cheers from that Groden named Mike,
And from Winnie Fox, whom we all like.
Good News from our hustling John Dash,
And Linda Pickert says to have a bash.

Peace is the wish of Anthony Costello,
And of Joe LoGiudice, a most happy fellow.
A happy production from Gary Ayers,
And Nancy Hayes sends you her prayers.

Merry notes from Bonnie Migliore,
And Carm Viglucci pledges his best story.
Happy New Year from Jim Michaelsen-man,
And from Marty Toombs, a Southern Tier fan.

From Pete Fraver, the single life he's leaving,
And from Terry Brennan good Christmas-eve-ing.
Marjorie Campaigne sums it up best--
May your Christmas truly be blest.

and Opinions

Yes, Stephen, You Are Santa Claus

Editor:

Every parent knows how a young child anticipates Christmas. It seems questions such as, "What makes Rudolph's nose red? Is Vixen a girl's name? How old will Jesus be on Christmas? How far is Bethlehem from here? are asked and answered every year along with the age-old question that a mother quivers at — "Is there REALLY a Santa Claus?"

When that question came from Stephen, my youngest, I really knew that the time for truth was here. As Karen's and Michael's ears straightened, I carefully and gently answered, "Stephen, everyone who loves is Santa Claus because they wish to make another person happy. Anyone who buys another person a present just to make that person happy can be called Santa Claus. Santa Claus is magic to little children. Parents show their love by answering those letters you write to Santa so that they can see your joy on Christmas morning. Santa in the red suit and white beard may be pretend — but the happiness he brings to children at Christmas time is not — the SPIRIT OF SANTA IS SO REAL BECAUSE IT IS LOVE.

Not too much response came to my answer but two days later as I was doing my laundry downstairs, I had great pleasure in overhearing my three children rehash the question "Is Santa Claus real?" Karen started by saying, "Santa Claus is anyone who makes anyone else happy." Stephen, remembering he had bought presents for his brother and sister, popped up with "I bought presents for you — I AM SANTA CLAUS."

The feeling I had at that moment is a feeling only a mother can know. My children had understood. Yes, Stephen, YOU ARE SANTA CLAUS! You may have bought gifts for your brother and sister but you have given your Mom a beautiful one and it was free. In our young lifetime you have exhibited such sensitivity, such joy — your

eyes sparkle so, that I don't believe even the Christmas Star could have been brighter.

Children! Birth! Life! Thank you, God, for giving me my Santas. Thank you for the joy of knowing the great value of life!

Patricia Amato
268 Morrow Drive
Rochester, N.Y.

Sponsors Thanked

Editor:

During this Christmas season, we in the Refugee Resettlement Program at Catholic Family Center wish to thank publicly the many people who have helped sponsor refugees from Vietnam and Laos.

These sponsors have extended love, encouragement, guidance and understanding to many newly arrived families and unaccompanied children. The support of sponsors has been a source of great strength to people faced with a new language, an unfamiliar culture and loneliness.

Sponsors of refugee families have also generously given time, energy and material support. Their assistance should be recognized and appreciated by all of us who wish to ease human suffering in the world.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Refugee Resettlement
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A Great Man Of God

Editor:

Words are not at all adequate to express my heartfelt sympathy to Catholics over the tragic passing of His Excellency, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. The Catholic Church has lost a dynamic leader and a truly great Man of God.

Although I am not of the Catholic faith, I have been an admirer of Archbishop

Sheen ever since his television series, "A Life Worth Living," in the late 50s. I am privileged to have in my possession a couple of letters from His Excellency as well as numerous cassette recordings of some of his retreats. These items I shall treasure always.

I am sure there are thousands of non-Catholics who equally share your sorrow and deep sense of loss over the passing of Archbishop Sheen, a truly great Man of God.

Jennie A. Rector
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We Teach By Example

Editor:

I am an inmate at Attica State Prison and while I was in church recently, I realized how much we as parents are an example for our children during services.

Paying attention to the sermon is of the utmost importance, whether we care or not for the contents of the sermon. Because by our doing so our children learn the value of respect.

Young people should not be allowed to talk and move about during the service. Even though it's hard for them to sit quietly through a long service, it's up to us to teach them patience.

Little children need to be taught reverence and to be considerate so that they will not disturb others during worship.

We should show them how to bow down and kneel before Our Lord. We must bow not only with our knees but also with our hearts. For Our Lord wants us to worship Him in spirit and in truth, not just in form.

Our minds should be occupied with the service and we shouldn't be thinking about business dealings, pleasure or upcoming events but only of our family beside us.

Making the most of the time we spend in the home of the Lord and putting our sincere hearts into the worship will be a great blessing to us and to our children.

In closing, I would like to say that next time you are tempted to criticize your children for their behavior in church, stop and think of your own. Hope that people will remember that by our



The Adoration of the Magi by Gaudenzio Ferrari, 1470-1546.

actions in church we are setting example for our children.

Anthony Liccione
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Thanks To All

Editor:

Thanks to all our brothers and sisters who came to celebrate with us our first charismatic Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church on Nov. 28.

It was truly a beautiful and memorable occasion because of the support also in prayer.

Wilma M. Higgs
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Materials Requested

Editor:

Through correspondence with an American Indian woman who teaches Arts and Crafts at a Jesuit Mission school in South Dakota, I have learned that she has a real need for material (all kinds), ribbon, feathers and fur. She uses all these things in her classes with Indian children.

It is my hope that readers will have items of this nature and be willing to drop them off at my house. There will be a receptacle for them at the front door. I, in turn, will send them to South Dakota.

Sue Wiedemer
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