

Christmas Fund Aids Needy Here

our diocese?

Do we have in our midst 75-year-olds with no place to live?

How many realize that. among us are young refugees. other lands where from torture and death have ended their family life?

Or, how about a 70-year-old searching for work to help support her mother and herself?

Can you imagine an older woman in a wheelchair trying.

Do people live in shacks in , to mop floors and do her own -laundry?

Yet these are all actual cases as provided by the agencies of Catholic Charities in conjunction with the annual Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Fund.

And these cases represent only the skin and bones of the misery. For every stricken parent there are children who will miss Christmas. For instance, one mother has not only established a home for her four children but also for her two grandchildren for whom she has total responsibility. All of this on a limited income.

Poverty exists in our diocese. In the city. In the rural areas. Lack of money. Loneliness. Depression. Ostracism. Illness. Helplessness. All in our diocese.

The organizations exist to battle these problems. Not only the various departments and agencies of Catholic Charities but parishes in every corner of the diocese can spread the assistance.

All of the cases are true and all exist in our diocese. But the 100 cases are only representative of many more needy cases being cared for.

While many people may respond to one or two of the more dramatic cases, the agencies of Catholic Charities must use their expertise to assist as many cases possible.

None of the money contributed goes to administrative costs, according to Maurice Tierney, director of Catholic Charities All contributionsshould go to:

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



The Neediest In Diocese

Following is the text of a statement issued yesterday, Dec. 2, by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

It is nearly a year and a half since I was installed as your bishop. The memory of that night, with so many of our people gathered together, is one that I shall never forget. It was a unique celebration of whom we are as Church.



My first priority during these months has been to visit with and listen to all of our people. To date I have visited morethan 90 percent of our parishes. have met with all the priests of the diocese in a variety of forums. I have met many times with the Pastoral Council, Priests' Council and Sisters' Council. I have responded directly to the peoples' questions in town meetings

held in all eleven regions of the diocese. I have sat with hundreds of groups and committees. In all of these discussions I was inspired by the vital interest so many people show for the mission of the Church. In a variety of ways, people voiced the needs of the diocese as a



26 The Ss are a single parent family, finding it very difficult to cope with everyday living. Having been evicted from their apartment about a month ago, they have had to split up. In their eviction, they were forced to leave their furniture and clothing behind.

27 A recently deserted his family. Mrs. A supports her three young children with the income from her part-time job and

partial public assistance. She is finding it very difficult to meet all her expenses as well as to provide food and clothes for the children. She has no money for a Christmas celebration.

28 Mrs. R is struggling to raise her ten children without the assistance of her husband. She is unable to provide either clothing or toys for the children' for Christmas.

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Bishop Encourages Italy Relief Effort

Bishop Matthew H. Clark earthquake. Thousands more has encouraged diocesans to . are homeless and injured. contribute to the relief effort. The bishop named Father. being staged by Catholic Joseph Reinhart, chief of the Relief Services for those Diocesan Missions Office, to oversee collecting funds which

whole. I am impressed with what they said.

In light of the many needs expressed, I have turned to several consultative groups and three special committees in addition to my own staff to ask how we could meet this challenge. Many suggestions were offered, but all were consistent in saying two things. First, the people of the diocese need a greater. knowledge of and a greater share in our diocesan efforts to live out the mission of the Church. I was strongly advised to educate our people to what I have been hearing so that they can share even more deeply in our common concerns and join me in meeting the needs expressed. Secondly, I was reminded that our people are generous and unafraid of the tasks facing the Church in the 1980s. The leadership of the Church must have the resources needed to carry out the Church's mission.

I am deeply grateful to the many people among our priests. Sisters and laity who have already worked veryhard to help me in addressing these critical concerns.

Having listened long and intently to the people and to many advisors, it is my role as bishop to make a decision. Today, I am announcing the initial plans for an annual diocesan appeal which will begin in the Fall of 1981. This will replace the parish assessment with a new and more positive way of supporting the ministry

Father Marvin, left, shakes hands with Bishop Clark. of our diocesan Church. I have asked Father James Marvin, Pastor of St. Ambrose Church, to head this effort for me. I have also engaged the services of Mr. Norman McGowan of State-Wide Counseling Service,as a consultant in this effort. He has assisted our Sister Diocese of Syracuse in a similar and very successful program.

As we seek to serve the needs of so many people around our 12-county diocese. I pledge that we will use all of our resources in a fiscally responsible manner. With the advice of professionals and under the keen review of our diocesan consultation process, we will exercise careful stewardship.

Finally, I want to invite all of the people of this diocese to help me in this effort. I look forward to working with you.

Your brother in Christ.

H Clark Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD **Bishop of Rochester**

injured and left homeless in the devastating earthquake which hit Southern Italy, Nov. 23.

will then be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services in New York. Archbishop John R. Roach,

More than 3,000 persons have died as a result of the

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New Column Begins

Ever wonder just what is the function of the various official departments of the diocese? We feel that many diocesans would be surprised to learn the complete range of services available through the good offices of the diocese.

With that in mind, the Courier-Journal this week begins a series of columns, "Centering on Service," which will describe each department of the diocese and its particular makeup and function.

We advise readers to clip and save for a complete rundown of the work of diocesan offices. The first column, which describes the Parish Council Development Office, may be found on Page 5.