

Christmas Fund for Poor Growing at Record Pace

The Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities annual Christmas Appeal has raised more than \$45,590.10 so far this year. The total, taken six days before Christmas, is nearly \$5,000 more than last year.

The appeal, begun by the Courier-Journal 11 years ago, is expected to exceed the \$50,000 mark. That figure was realized last year and was a record for the event.

Among noteworthy donations to the fund, employees at Channel 10 presented \$500 to the cause. The employees fund is chaired by Sue Kendrick of the accounting department.

As has been evident in the past, the bulk of donations come from "small" contributors. Anthony J. Costello, publisher of the Courier-Journal, has observed.

"This is gratifying because it means that many people are taking part and many of them don't really have that much to share," he said.

In the course of the campaign, the Courier-Journal publishes the stories of the 100 neediest families



Marcia Fedyk (left) and James Maloney of the Catholic Family Center, accept the contribution from employees of Channel 10, Chris Poissant and Cindy Allenbrandt. Maurice Tierney of Catholic Charities stands right.

and individuals in the diocese from the files of agencies of Catholic Charities.

The stories, however, are reflective only of the most evident misery to be found among members of the diocesan family.

While the major effort of the Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is spent on providing for the needy at Christmas time, the

fund also is used to provide emergency help for the poor during the course of the year. All administration and promotion costs are absorbed by the agencies involved.

Contributions should be sent to:

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

Heating Help Available

Monroe County residents are able to apply for assistance under the state's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

The state Department of Social Services is administrator of the energy program designed to help low and marginal income households and the elderly meet their energy needs this winter.

The county Department of Social Services will certify applications from public assistance households. Action for a Better Community and the two local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Benefits division of the Department of Labor will certify applications from non-public assistance households. For persons 60 and older, the county Office for the Aging and its nutrition centers also have applications.

Eligible applicants here have a line of credit up to \$200 for those who heat with gas or electric, and up to \$260 for those who heat with oil. Persons 60 and older may be entitled to additional benefits if 40 percent of their income is spent on heat and utility bills.

Renters who meet income eligibility may also be eligible for up to \$180, even if heat and utilities are included in their rent. Renters in federally subsidized housing, generally, are not eligible for assistance under HEAP.

Eligibility for HEAP is based on family size and gross income.

Persons 60 and older, whose income is higher, may also apply since there is a six percent exemption of gross income given for elderly applicants.

In addition to the line of credit, a one-time-only payment of \$150 will be mailed to Supplemental

Security Income (SSI) recipients who live alone, and were in receipt of SSI benefits in October.

A \$150 one-time-only grant will be mailed to public assistance households with children next month.

Persons applying for HEAP should bring: proof of income, most current utility or fuel bill, current rent or mortgage receipt or statement, and, for persons 60 and older, proof of age, when they apply.

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Merry Christmas from the staff of

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Letter Campaign Opens in Parishes

The situation, political and religious, in El Salvador last week prompted two letters from members of the International Justice and Peace Commission of the diocese.

The first letter, signed by M. Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, program coordinator of the commission, encouraged pastors in the diocese to place sign-up sheets in their church vestibules so that all diocesans may append their names to, first, a Christmas message to the Archbishop of San Salvador, and, second, to

president-elect Ronald Reagan.

That second letter, penned by Dr. Jose Belancourt, chairman of the commission, reviews the situation in El

Salvador through citations from Church leaders there and in the U.S. and concludes that the president-elect be certain that "no arms — none — be sent to El Salvador."

Kolping Mass Slated Jan. 4

A Christmas Mass, celebrated in German, will highlight the holiday season for the Catholic Kolping Society. The Mass, celebrated by Father Winfried M. Kellner, praeses of the society, is slated for 2 p.m. on Jan. 4 at St. Boniface Church.

Deacon George Heyman will deliver the homily and Marilyn Bayer will conduct traditional German Christmas hymns.

The society was founded in Germany in 1849 by Father Adolph Kolping. During his recent pilgrimage to Germany, Pope John Paul II said of the priest, "Adolph Kolping called for new reflection by man on his inner value, given by God, in the family, in his

profession, and in the Church, in the state and in society. His program runs, every single Christian changes the world if he lives in a Christian way. Adolph Kolping lived in a period of political and social upheaval. He knew that the individual in isolation could contribute little to the improvement of relationships. Therefore he zealously built up the Catholic Union, now the International Kolping Work."

The pontiff at that time also encouraged Kolping members in the pursuit of the beatification of the priest. He repeated an earlier statement, "For the Church of today, we need leading figures such as Adolph Kolping."



VORRASI

Recital Set Here

Former Rochesterian John Vorrasi will give an informal recital at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 28 in the rectory hall of Sacred Heart Cathedral. The program, open to the public free of charge, will include a selection of lieder, operatic arias and Neopolitan folk songs.

During his student days, Vorrasi was tenor soloist at the Cathedral, a post he presently holds with the William Ferris Chorale of Chicago. In addition, he is director of public relations for the American Conservatory of Music, also in Chicago.

TV Series Will Trace Christian History

"The Christians," a series of 13 one-hour, documentary films, will begin Sunday, Jan. 4, at 6 p.m. on Channel 21. "The Christians" is not a religious program but the story of 2,000 years of history following the life of Jesus Christ, showing how He has shaped much of the world that we know, to this day.

The production of the program took four years and was filmed in thirty countries including much of Europe, the U.S., USSR, South America

and Africa. Promotion of the series is being done by the Office of Religious Education in cooperation with Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. For further information, call the Office of Religious Education at (716) 328-3210.

Deadline Notice

Because of the holiday season, the deadline for the Jan. 7 issue will be noon, Tuesday, Dec. 30.

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